British Parliamentary Papers

Colonies
GENERAL

36

SESSIONS

1898-99

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
0 1620 00806 859

GOV
DOC
UK1
X8
S45
C53
v.36

GOV PUB

For Reference

NOT TO BE TAKEN FROM THIS ROOM

Ex Libris
Universitatis
Albertaensis

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
AUG 7 1973
DOCUMENTS
LIBRARY

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
AUG 7 1973
DOCUMENTS
LIBRARY

British

Parliamentary Papers

COLONIES ANNUAL REPORTS

Colonies

General 36

IUP LIBRARY OF FUNDAMENTAL SOURCE BOOKS

RESEARCH UNIT DIRECTOR T F Turley

The IUP Series of British Parliamentary Papers

CHIEF EDITORIAL ADVISORS

Professor P Ford, Professor Emeritus, Southampton University
and Mrs G Ford

CONSULTANT EDITORS

Professor J H Smith, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Southampton University
Professor Oliver MacDonagh, University College, Cork
Christopher Townley, Librarian, University College, Galway
Colman Lyne, National Museum of Canada
Dan O'Keeffe, Librarian, University College, Cork
Professor John W Osborne, Rutgers University, New Jersey

This Series
is published with the active co-operation of
SOUTHAMPTON UNIVERSITY

IRISH UNIVERSITY PRESS SERIES

OF

British Parliamentary Papers

ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE STATE OF THE COLONIES

1898-99

Colonies General

36

IRISH UNIVERSITY PRESS

SHANNON · IRELAND

PRINTER'S NOTE

The Printer wishes to draw attention to the many variations in the graphic quality of this series: broken type, ink set-off, poor impression and background blemishes are to be found in the original copy.

Every effort has been made to minimise these faults and to make the reprint copy as legible as possible.

© *1970*

Irish University Press Shannon Ireland

Microforms

Microfilm, microfiche and other forms of micro-publishing
© *Irish University Microforms Shannon Ireland*

SBN 7165 1240 8

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

The Irish University Press Series of British Parliamentary Papers is a facsimile reproduction. The original documents in this volume have been reproduced by photo-lithography and are unabridged even to the extent of faithfully retaining the printer's imprint.

The contents of this volume have been printed in their entirety by Robert Hogg, Printer to the Irish University Press, Shannon, Ireland.

As a result of the arrangement of the documents in subject sets and of the bringing together in a single book of a number of papers, some volumes in the Irish University Press Series may include the imprints of more than one printer.

This reprint is an enlargement from the original octavo format.

Irish University Press Shannon Ireland
DUBLIN CORK BELFAST LONDON NEW YORK
T M MacGlinchey Publisher
Robert Hogg Printer

LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Contents

IUP Page Number

For ease of reference IUP editors have assigned a continuous pagination which appears on the top outer margin of each page.

State of the Colonies
Annual Reports
1898 [c.8650] Vol LIX

Barbados
Report for 1897 11

Basutoland
Reports for 1896–97 35

Bechuanaland Protectorate
Reports for 1896–97 91

Bermuda
Report for 1897 125

Ceylon
Report for 1896 135

Falkland Islands
Report for 1896 151

Fiji
Report for 1896 175
Report on Trade for 1896 193

Gambia
Report for 1897 213

Gibraltar
Report for 1896 221

Gold Coast
Report for 1896 231

Grenada
Report for 1896 259

British Guiana
Report for 1896–97 275

British Honduras
Report for 1896 299

Hong Kong
Report for 1896 325

Jamaica
Report for 1896–97 341

Labuan
Report for 1896 393

Lagos
Report for 1896 401

Leeward Islands
Report for 1896 417

Mauritius
Report for 1896 433

Continued

2069059

Contents

Continued

IUP Page Number

Rodrigues
Report for 1896 457

St Helena
Report for 1896 467

St Lucia
Report for 1896 483

St Vincent
Report for 1896 495

Seychelles
Report for 1896 511

Sierra Leone
Report for 1896 521

Straits Settlements
Report for 1895 541
Report for 1896 557

Straits Settlements
Report on the Annual Visit to the Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands for 1897 573

Turks and Caicos Islands
Report for 1897 597

State of the Colonies
Annual Reports
1899 [c.9046] [c.9498] Vol LXI

Bahamas
Report for 1897 613

Barbados
Report for 1898 629

Basutoland
Report for 1897–98 661

Bermuda
Report for 1898 717

Ceylon
Report for 1897 729
Report for 1898 741

Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands
Report on the Annual Visit for 1898 773

Falkland Islands
Report for 1897 789
Report for 1898 821

Continued

Contents

Continued

IUP Page Number

Fiji
Report for 1897 845
Report for 1898 861

Gambia
Report for 1898 885

Gibraltar
Report for 1897 901
Report for 1898 913

Gold Coast
Report for 1897 941
Report for 1898 969

Grenada
Report for 1897 1005

British Honduras
Report for 1897 1029

Hong Kong
Report for 1897 1037

Jamaica
Report for 1897–98 1045

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No 231.

BARBADOS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 199.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
August 1898.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 1-3, Great St. Thomas Apostle, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.; and
32, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, Hanover Street, Edinburgh, and
90, West Nile Street, Glasgow; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., Limited, 104, Grafton Street, Dublin.

1898.

[C.—8650–29.] *Price* 1½*d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
197	British New Guinea	1895–96
198	Turks and Caicos Islands...	1896
199	Barbados	,,
200	Leeward Islands	1895
201	Trinidad and Tobago	1896
202	Gibraltar	,,
203	Fiji (Trade)...	,,
204	Straits Settlements...	1895
205	Do. do.	1896
206	Falkland Islands	,,
207	British Honduras	,,
208	Sierra Leone	,,
209	Grenada	,,
210	Hong Kong...	,,
211	St. Lucia	,,
212	St. Vincent	,,
213	St. Helena	,,
214	Seychelles	,,
215	Mauritius	,,
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1897
217	Fiji	1896
218	Ceylon	,,
219	Lagos	,,
220	Gold Coast	,,
221	Labuan	,,
222	British Guiana	1896–97
223	Rodrigues	1896
224	Basutoland	1896–97
225	Jamaica	,,
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
227	Leeward Islands	1896
228	Bermuda	1897
229	Gambia	,,
230	Turks and Caicos Islands...	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.

No. 231.

BARBADOS.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 199.)

GOVERNOR SIR J. S. HAY to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Barbados.
26th May 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward six copies of the Annual Blue Book of the Colony, together with the Report thereon by the Colonial Secretary, for the year 1897.

I have, &c.

J. S. HAY.

BLUE BOOK REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1897.

TAXATION.

1. There are two alterations under this head, one contained in the Trade Amendment Act (1897; 3), which increases the sum charged to vessels, whilst loading or unloading in the Careenage, from 1*d.* to 1¼*d.* per ton per day, and the second contained in the Customs Tariff Amendment Act, 1897, exempting from duty machinery and apparatus imported for the purpose of manufacturing tobacco.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue.

	£
2. The Revenue estimated for 1897 was ...	181,150
The actual Revenue was	184,706

or £3,556 in excess of estimate.

17057*—75—6/98 Wt 21620 D & S—5 (B)

BARBADOS, 1897.

The comparative statement would appear to indicate that the Revenue for 1897, £184,706, was less than the Revenue for 1896, which appears as £185,532; but this is not true as regards actual sources of income, inasmuch as the true receipts, irrespective of loans, for 1896 were only £177,032, that is to say, £7,674 less than the receipts for 1897, the apparent Revenue having been augmented in 1896 by the borrowing of £8,500 from Waterworks Funds.

The head of Customs for 1897 shews an increase of £2,690 over that of 1896, but this is mainly due to the Customs Tariff Act of 1896, which came into operation on the 1st of January 1897.

Revenue from Excise shews an increase of £4,765, which is due to the fact that the Rum Duty Amendment Act of June 1896 only operated for six months in 1896, while it was in operation during the whole of 1897. It is also due to the better crop of 1897.

Post Office shews an increase of £830, due to the greater sale of stamps of the Jubilee die.

Interest shews an increase of £2,592, due to the fact that interest credited in 1896 to Special Receipts was credited in 1897 to the head of Interest.

Special Receipts shew a decrease of £2,546, explained as above, under Interest.

Waterworks shew a decrease of £804, due partly to a reduction of rates, and partly to there being a larger amount of uncollected rates at the end of 1897, as compared with 1896.

3. The following are the receipts under the principal heads of Revenue for the past six years :—

——	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Customs	92,340	94,480	94,244	82,529	104,191	106,880
Port and Harbour	4,299	4,614	4,234	3,239	3,787	4,235
Excise	28,919	32,553	29,422	25,666	27,461	32,226
Licenses	6,249	6,169	6,473	6,012	5,569	5,622
Police tax ...	6,331	3,899	3,619	3,603	3,880	3,893
Fees and fines and fees of office.	6,049	5,758	5,624	4,671	5,547	5,111
Post Office ...	7,909	6,020	6,732	6,594	7,218	8,048
Miscellaneous ...	10,567	8,237	10,276	7,734	9,052	9,164
Waterworks ...	—	—	—	6,267	10,327	9,522
Totals... ...	162,663	161,730	160,624	146,315	177,032	184,706
Temporary advance from Waterworks Loan Fund ...					8,500	
					185,532	

Expenditure.

	£
4. The estimated Expenditure for 1897 was ...	180,045
The actual Expenditure was	172,551

or £7,494 less than was estimated.

The Expenditure for 1897 was less than the Expenditure for 1896 by £11,469, due mainly to the reduced payments under the head of Subsidies and Grants.

The payment of subsidy to the Railway Company in 1897 was £82, against £9,000 paid in 1896, which sum of £9,000 comprised the full subsidy of £6,000 for 1896 and £3,000 arrears of subsidy for 1895.

It is also due to a greater payment of Telegraph subsidy in 1896 of £625, being arrears from 1895, as well as to other payments in 1896 of a similar nature.

The most notable variations in Expenditure are :—

Customs shew an increase of £1,226, due to the increased drawback on exportation of fish brought into operation by the Customs Tariff Act (1896 ; 34).

Post Office shews a decrease of £589, due to the fact that 1896 bore a portion of the cost of "conveyance of mails abroad" for 1895 as well as its own proper expenditure.

Legal Departments shew a decrease of £798, due to the fact that legal salaries to the amount of £502 due in 1895 were paid in 1896, and to other small circumstances.

Subsidies and grants shew a decrease of £10,055, explained above.

Miscellaneous shews an increase of £1,443, mainly due to the starting of the Victoria Emigration Society, the balance due on Revision of Laws, and the grant to the Roman Catholic Church.

There has been a continuous effort in all Departments to reduce expenditure in every way possible.

Thus to summarise—

	£
Revenue for 1897 was	184,706
Expenditure was	172,551

that is to say, Revenue exceeded Expenditure by £12,155—a fairly satisfactory state of things.

The final result of our account for 1897 was to shew a balance (including the balance brought forward) on the 31st of December 1897 of £14,195 ; but it cannot be taken that this sum was available for the ordinary necessities of the Colony, inasmuch as the liabilities of 1896, viz., the loan of £8,500 from waterworks, still had to be met, as well as other liabilities, the settlement of which had been postponed in 1896.

On the face of this statement of account, it would appear that Barbados, far from being in financial straits, is financially prosperous; but the real fact is that the sugar industry (and to which I allude later), is still being carried on, even though it may be at a loss, and even though it is eating away its capital.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

5. Assets on the 31st of December 1897 amounted to £20,307.

Liabilities amounted to £9,333, giving a balance of Assets over Liabilities of £10,974.

PUBLIC DEBT.

6. The Public Debt on the 31st of December 1897 was £409,150; being £375,000 for Waterworks Loan (1894) and £34,150 for Public Works.

The amounts to credit of the Sinking Funds were :—Waterworks Loan, £9,097, and Public Works Loan, £15,185.

MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

7. The total amount spent by the Imperial Government on the garrisons of Barbados and St. Lucia was £94,514, of which £59,549 was spent in the upkeep of the troops stationed at Barbados, and of which a large portion was circulated in Barbados.

PUBLIC WORKS.

8. No new works have been undertaken, as it has been felt necessary to exercise a strict economy, but the dredging of the Careenage and the renewal of Wharf walls have both been continued.

The total expenditure for works and repairs was £7,524.

The construction and extension of the Waterworks system has been regularly carried on, at a cost during the year of £35,088.

The gradual perfection of the Waterworks system is proving of great value to the inhabitants.

LEGISLATION.

9. Twenty-two Acts were passed in 1897, of which two were consolidations, respectively, of the Police Magistrates Acts and of the Settlement of the Poor and Bastardy Acts.

One was to provide for the commemoration of Her Majesty's Jubilee by the institution of a society for assisting the emigration of poor women; and one was to amend the Education Act. This latter Act provided, *inter alia*, that the cost of elementary education shall in no event in any year exceed £11,000, and that if in any year the sum voted on the Estimates is insufficient the Examination premium rates shall be reduced by the Education Board accordingly.

Political Franchise.

10. The total number of electors on the Register was 2,208, as compared with 2,341 in 1896.

Establishments.

11. During the absence of the Governor, Sir J. S. Hay, the Colonial Secretary, Mr. G. R. Le Hunte, administered the Government, such administration lasting over the period of the Jubilee.

Later on Mr. Le Hunte was transferred to the post of Colonial Secretary of Mauritius and Mr. Ralph Williams was appointed Colonial Secretary.

Mr. Haynes, the Prothonotary, retired on a pension, and Mr. W. H. Bailey, Chief Clerk in the Colonial Secretary's Office, was appointed, in the terms of the Registration Office Act, 1887, to the post of Registrar, which included the duties of Prothonotary as well as certain duties of the Record Office hitherto performed in the Colonial Secretary's Office.

Mr. H. W. Collymore was appointed Chief Clerk in the Colonial Secretary's Office.

Among the acting appointments, Mr. Grannum, the Auditor-General, acted as Colonial Secretary for Mr. Le Hunte, and Mr. W. H. Bailey acted as Auditor-General during the same period.

Pensions.

12. The total cost in 1897 of Pensions paid to public officers since retiring was £3,104, as compared with a cost of £3,162 in 1896.

A substantial reduction occurred by the death of Sir William Brandford Griffith in 1897, while the retirement of Mr. Robert Haynes on the last day but one of the year will cause a very heavy increase in the future.

Foreign Consuls.

13. Mr. S. A. Macallister was appointed Consul for the United States of America in place of Mr. Tate.

Mr. C. A. Daniel and Mr. N. E. Parravicino were appointed Consul and Vice-Consul respectively for the Republic of Venezuela.

Mr. Parravicino provisionally acted as Consul for Austro-Hungary, and as Consular Agent for Italy.

POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

14. The census for 1891 shewed a population as under :—

Whites.		Total Whites.	Coloured.		Total Coloured.	Total Population.
Male.	Female.		Male.	Female.		
7,339	8,274	15.613	73,766	92,927	166,693	182,306

It may be taken that the total population in 1897 numbered about 190,000, with a large preponderance of females.

The total number of registered births in 1897 was 7,197, of which 3,300 were legitimate and 3,897 illegitimate, shewing a percentage of legitimate births 45·85 and of illegitimate births 54·15.

The health of the island has been good.

The death rate for 1897 was 26·12 per 1,000, as compared with a death rate of 27·08 in 1896.

The birth rate for 1897 was 38·87 per 1,000, as compared with a birth rate of 38·59 in 1896.

The death rate would seem high, but it has to be remembered that the overcrowding in rooms is terribly great and the feeding of the poor often barely sufficient, while the large infantile mortality is greatly due to the injudicious feeding of infants under one year.

SAVINGS BANK.

15. The number of depositors on the 31st of December 1897 was 12,278, having an amount to their credit of £213,984, as compared with 11,661 depositors in 1896, with a credit of £190,526.

The assets of the Savings Bank on the 31st of December were comprised in investments in stock, in deposit receipts and current account at the Colonial Bank, and in investments on

mortgage on landed estates in Barbados; amounting in the aggregate to £220,659.

This is calculating the value of the stock at the price paid for it, although much of it has risen in value since its purchase.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

16. The number of Friendly Societies on the Register on the 31st of December 1897 was 152. No societies were added to the Register during the last half of the year—a most unusual circumstance, which the Registrar ascribes to the diminished amount of funds at the disposal of the artisans and labouring classes.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

17. The total cost of Ecclesiastical Establishments in the Colony in 1897 was £11,220, of which £10,070 was allocated to the Anglican Establishment.

EDUCATION.

18. The total expenditure under the head of Education in 1897 was £16,730—of which £11,490 was spent on Elementary Education.

The Schools consist of First Grade, Second Grade, and Elementary Schools.

The First Grade Schools are Harrison College, the Lodge School, and Queen's College, the latter being for girls only.

The Second Grade Schools are Combermere School, Coleridge School, Parry School, Alleyne School, and the Alexandra School, the latter being for girls only.

Most of these schools are in a satisfactory condition and are doing good work in the Colony.

The number of children on the roll of the Elementary Schools in 1897 was 28,757, with an average attendance of 15,556, as compared with, in 1896, 27,589, with an average attendance of 15,052.

But, although the number of pupils is greater in 1897 than in 1896, the number of schools has been reduced from 183 to 179.

The principal point in connexion with Elementary Education is that to which I have adverted under the head of Legislation, namely, the Act limiting the amount in future to be paid for Elementary Education in any one year to £11,000.

The grand old foundation of Codrington College, affiliated to Durham University, still carries on its work energetically,

although it is a matter of deep regret that the depression in the sugar estates on which the College depends for its revenues has seriously diminished its capacity as regards numbers.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

19. The total Imports of the Colony in 1897 amounted to £1,008,699 (as compared with Imports valued at £1,048,847 in 1896) of which £474,622 came from the United Kingdom, £182,829 from British Colonies, and £351,248 from foreign countries. Thus, there is a falling off of £40,148 as compared with 1896, and a reduction of imports in Barbados is not an indication of greater local production but of loss of purchasing power.

A part of this falling off is due to the fact that the new tariff came into operation on the 1st of January 1897, and consequently merchants had stocked very fully in 1896 of such goods as would come under the higher duty, leaving only their stock of goods coming under the lower duty to be replenished in 1897.

20. The following is a comparative table for the five years from 1892 to 1896 inclusive :—

Year.	Total.	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	Foreign Countries.
	£	£	£	£
1892	1,081,572	469,318	195,855	416,399
1893	1,372,537	583,086	254,404	535,047
1894	1,279,335	507,534	227,514	544,287
1895	956,921	391,434	184,154	381 333
1896	1,048,887	467,649	181,644	399,554
Average for 5 years ...	1,147,850	483,804	208,714	455,324
1897	1,008,699	474,622	182,829	351,248
Below the average ...	139,151	9,182	25,885	104,076
Above 1896	—	6,973	1,185	—
Below 1893	40,188	—	—	48,306

But, although the total value of import trade has been reduced, is is satisfactory to note that the value of Imports from the United Kingdom shews an increase of nearly £7,000, from the British Colonies of over £1,000, while the total loss in value is on Imports from foreign countries, amounting to about £48,000.

21. The following is a list of the most notable Decreases :—

		£
Bread	about	5,000
Margarine	„	3,000
Coffee	„	1,500
Salted fish	„	4,000
Lard	„	1,500
Petroleum	„	6,500
Tobacco, manufactured ...	„	1,400
Lumber	„	1,485
Staves	„	10,000
		£34,385

The most notable Increases are iron and steel £10,000 (being chiefly Government pipes for the water supply), malt liquor and spirits £2,000, salted meat £3,500.

Exports.

22. The total value of Exports in 1897 was £736,162, of which £555,394 was produce of the Colony and £180,768 was otherwise ; as compared with a total value of exports in 1896 amounting to £758,228, of which £577,367 was produce of the Colony and £180,861 was otherwise.

This shews a total falling off of exports in 1897 as compared with 1896 of value £22,066, and a falling off of exports of produce of the Colony of value £21,973.

But the Exports of produce of the Colony in 1897 were 56,397 tons of muscovado sugar and 2,203 tons of dry sugar, as against 45,789 tons of muscovado and 3,610 tons of dry in 1896, shewing an increase in the actual weight of muscovado sugar exported in 1897 over 1896 of 10,608 tons, and a decrease in the amount of dry sugar exported of 1,407 tons.

Thus, in the aggregate, a much greater quantity (over 9,000 tons) of sugar was exported in 1897 than in 1896.

The total amount of molasses exported in 1897 was 37,432 puncheons, of a value of £86,094, as compared with an exportation in 1896 of 36,607 puncheons, of a value of £122,023 ; shewing an increase in number of puncheons exported of 825, but a decrease in value of £35,929.

It thus happens that, the price of sugar and molasses having steadily fallen, the value of exported Colonial produce shews, as I have stated, a heavy falling off of £21,973, despite this largely increased production.

BARBADOS. 1897.

23. The following table shews the destination of the Exports of the Produce of the Colony (mainly sugar, molasses, and rum) for five years up to and inclusive of 1897 :—

Year.	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1892	115,635	134,463	501,825	751,923
1893	127,247	142,475	760,791	1,030,513
1894	114,311	166,944	490,747	772,002
1895	64,794	107,866	221,931	394.591
1896	33,521	132,794	411,052	577,367
1897	26,515	100,414	428,466	555,395

This shews that in 1897 a value of £26,515 was exported to the United Kingdom, a value of £100,414 to British colonies, and a value of £428,466 to foreign countries.

Rum is now practically not exported.

The bituminous substance known as Manjak may become an important article of exportation. The quantity exported in 1897 was 1,880 tons, compared with 878 in 1896. I shall allude to this industry in the concluding remarks of this report.

The exportation of articles other than the produce of the Colony shews hardly any variation from the previous year.

24. The following Table shows the total Trade (Import and Export) with the United Kingdom, British colonies, and foreign countries from 1892 to 1897 inclusive :—

Table shewing the Total Trade (Import and Export) with the United Kingdom, British Colonies, and Foreign Countries from 1892 to 1897.

Year.	With the United Kingdom.			With British Colonies.			With Foreign Countries.		
	Imports.	Exports.	Total.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.	Imports.	Exports.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1892	469,318	119,168	588,486	195,855	273,895	469,750	416,399	533,510	949,909
1893	391,134	141,943	533,077	184,154	319,689	503,843	381,332	781,452	1,162,784
1894	507,534	127,444	634,978	227,514	319,269	546,783	544,286	537,798	1,082,084
1895	391,435	69,760	461,195	184,153	262,991	447,144	381,332	254,547	635,879
1896	467,649	38,520	506,169	181,644	274,813	456,457	399,594	444,895	844,489
1897	474,622	33,972	508,594	182,829	231,839	414,668	351,248	470,352	821,600

SHIPPING.

25. The total number of vessels which entered and cleared during the year 1897 was :—

Entered.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.	Tons.	Steam Vessels.	Tons.	Total Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
1896 ...	798	89,430	354	542,119	1,152	631,549
1897 ...	812	92,760	376	576,507	1,188	669,267

Cleared.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.	Tons.	Steam Vessels.	Tons.	Total Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
1896 ...	800	89,340	355	543,127	1,155	632,467
1897 ...	819	90,188	376	576,507	1,195	666,695

The above is the Customs return of vessels actually "Entered" and "Cleared,"—but, as vessels have twenty-four hours given them before they need "enter," it happens that a far larger tonnage really visits Carlisle Bay than appears above.

The details of this will be found in the Harbour Master's return on page X. 17 of the Blue Book, which shows a total arrival of 2,017 vessels, with a total tonnage of 1,107,710 tons.

GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

Glendairy Prison.

26. The total cost of Glendairy Prison in 1897 was £5,404, as against £5,537 in 1896.

The total number of prisoners in 1897 was 3,267, as against 3,360 in 1896.

The estimated value of labour of males is :—

	£
Outside	736
Inside, various labours	202
Inside, estimated saving on bakery	658
Being a total of	£1,596
The estimated value of female labour is ...	154
Shewing a total for males and females of	£1,750

Dodds Reformatory for Boys.

27. The total cost of this institution was in 1897, £1,650, as compared with £1,760 in 1896.

The total number of boys was 121, as compared with 118 in 1896.

This is a very useful institution, and it is a pity it is not larger. It is ably and scientifically conducted by Mr. Bovell and Professor d'Albuquerque.

As far as can be ascertained, the great majority of boys emigrating from it return to honest ways and become useful members of society.

If the extent of the institution was greater many more boys could be rescued from the gutter, but economy has to be studied, and not much can be done at present in that direction.

Meteorological Observations.

28. The total rainfall of 1897 was 65·09 inches, with 213 wet days, as compared with 80·41, with 228 wet days, in 1896.

The mean barometrical pressure was 29·940.

The mean temperature was 79·2.

The island was entirely free from hurricanes or earthquakes.

Post and Telegraph Statistics.

29. The revenue of the Post Office in 1897 was £8,048, and the expenditure was £9,770, shewing a balance of expenditure over revenue of £1,722. This is due to the great cost of conveyance of mails abroad, which practically absorbs the whole of the two and a half pence paid on each letter.

The sum of £18,932 was paid in the Colony on money orders sent from the various British West India Islands.

BARBADOS. 1897.

This represents mainly remittances from Barbadians working elsewhere to their families here. It is less than in late previous years, but times are harder throughout the West Indies.

HOSPITALS.

30. In taking Hospital expenditure for 1896, my predecessor, I believe, took certain figures from the Hospital Books. I think that the better plan is to take the Auditor-General's figures, shewing everything paid within the year, and not merely expenses incurred within the year.

Differences can then easily be explained.

On this basis the total expenditure on Hospitals for 1897 was as under :—

——	1897.	1896.
	£	£
General Hospital	7,002	7,265
Lunatic Asylum	5,401	5,759
Lazaretto	2,673	2,787

The General Hospital shewed considerable savings under "Provisions" and "Furniture" in 1897 as compared with 1896.

"Provisions" and "Water" in the Lunatic Asylum shewed a considerable saving in 1897.

"Provisions" in the Lazaretto shew a saving.

I append a statistical table for 1897 :—

——	Discharges.	Deaths.	Daily Average.
General Hospital	3,223	188	208
Lunatic Asylum	45	58	328
Lazaretto	—	16	113

PAROCHIAL INSTITUTIONS.

31. The total expenditure under this head in 1897 was £16,032, as compared with £15,879.

The admissions into the parochial institutions in 1897 were 1,735, as compared with 1,627 in 1896.

The Poor Law Inspector's report speaks well of the general health of the Island. Diarrhœa and dysentery have been practically absent, and the number of typhoid cases very few.

There has been an epidemic of influenza in 1897, with but few deaths.

The medical reports generally tend to shew that the abundant supply of pure water has largely helped to do away with typhoid and diarrhœal complaints, which were formerly so prevalent.

GENERAL.

32. In view of the widespread interest which has been created by the Report of the Royal Commissioners, this Report would be incomplete without some remarks on the condition of the sugar industry, which is at present the very life-blood of the Island.

33. It may appear somewhat presumptuous on my part, after a brief six months' experience, to try to deal with a subject so familiar and so vital to the inhabitants of the Colony, but it is my duty to speak of such points connected with the industry as have principally attracted my attention.

34. It is often said that the existing depression is largely due to the lack of enterprise on the part of the sugar growers, and that a greater desire evinced to march with the times would have brought planters in line with modern conditions and have enabled them to meet falling prices.

That there is some truth in this cannot be doubted, but it is to the circumstances of the industry rather than to lack of enterprise that this is due.

35. I do not think that it is fully realised how small the estates, as a rule, are ; a hundred, or two hundred, or three hundred acres being, as a rule, the extent of an estate.

These small estates, hardly as big as a fair-sized tenant farmer's holding, have in past years, and even up to a comparatively late date, yielded results so profitable as to seem incredible to a stranger.

To quote the words of a distinguished official of the West Indies :—" My father brought up his eight children and sent me " to Oxford on an estate of only one hundred acres."

36. Now, can it be wondered at, that with such results from ordinary and somewhat rudimentary methods, planters have failed to appreciate the value of modern machinery and modern economy until forced by sheer necessity ?

An ample income easily acquired with but slight outlay, and a beneficent trade-wind to work such machinery as was necessary,

BARBADOS. 1897

made life easy and prosperous to the planter; and, under such circumstances, and under a tropical sun, how many of us, I wonder, would have hurried to tentative expenditure, involving risk and worry, in order to attain to possibly larger (but possibly smaller) income ?

37. It is true that in some cases several estates are included in one ownership, but in this, too, there is a curious variation fror accepted English methods in matters of property.

The English practice is to concentrate one's property; in ordinary parlance, to get it " within a ring fence."

The accepted method in Barbados would seem to have been to scatter it. Even where several estates are in one holding they are nearly always far apart, and but rarely sufficiently adjacent to make it convenient to work all the estates by one mill.

I think that this has arisen from a desire to catch the advantages of rainfall on some of their estates, if not in this parish then in that (for the rainfall is curiously variable in the several districts), or it has possibly occurred through the difficulty of acquiring contiguous properties, but, from whatever cause it comes, the well-understood merits of a compact property have never been appreciated in Barbados.

38. Hence, even large holders have been subjected to the great cost of duplicated and triplicated management, staff, plant, and machinery; and the expenditure on better machinery and on steam as a motive power even where it has been attempted has been necessarily greater. Absenteeism, too, has proved very fatal. The large incomes easily earned prompted owners to draw their revenues away from the island. By degrees incumbrances arose, and, little by little, much of the property passed away from the original proprietors.

39. Sometimes this was by the imposition of mortgage after mortgage—at first to provide portions for younger children, and afterwards to help to tide over difficulties—until the interest of the original owner seemed lost. Sometimes the property was actually sold; but the purchaser took it over, with its incumbrances, paying a small sum down, and involving himself from the start in the difficulties which had engulfed his predecessor.

40. Bad as this was, the effects were not largely apparent on the interests of the Island, as the industry was itself full of life; prices, though gradually falling, remained profitable; and the sugar itself was of so excellent a quality as to command a ready and lucrative market.

41. Then, again, labour was (and is) so cheap. Other industries and other places have had to fight against scarce labour, or combined labour, or high-priced labour. But here was abundant labour always at hand and always cheap.

42. Thus the industry was maintained, despite incumbrances and falling prices.

43. At last beet sugar became a serious factor in competition, and the output of sugar throughout the world was increased to a vast extent.

44. This was supplemented by the foreign bounty system, and nothing but ruin seemed to remain for the industry.

45. Then came the Royal Commission, and the Report of the Commissioners.

I have heard it said that the Commission was a cruel kindness—that it probed and brought to the surface the woes of the Colony and destroyed credit, with but little hope of giving a sufficing remedy.

But it cannot be doubted that unjustified credit based on ignorance can only have but a short life, and I think it is fairly generally admitted that the daylight which has been let into the industry is the only true precursor of the renewed prosperity which may yet accrue to Barbados and its sugar industry.

46. I will here touch for a moment on what is known as the Chancery system in Barbados, as applied to sugar estates.

A planter, having mortgaged his estate to full value, and often far in excess of full value, and having exhausted his credit utterly, at last finds no apparent salvation.

In ordinary countries the mortgagees would foreclose and the end would be simple and expeditious, but not so here. The mortgagor, either personally or by his mortgagees, puts his estate in Chancery. It is valued by appraisers under the Chancery Act, such appraisers being, as a rule, themselves planters or attorneys to planters.

I do not think it will be controverted that the appraisement (whether it represents the true value of the land, as is often argued, or not) is generally much in excess of any sum likely to be paid for it.

The estate cannot be sold below its appraised value, and it is therefore not sold at all, and remains in Chancery. A Receiver is appointed, and he, under conditions into which it is unnecessary to go, works the estate.

Capital for present necessities has to be provided for him, and consequently the law says that the Receiver shall be permitted to mortgage the growing crop in advance, and that the charge so created shall be a first charge against the estate, taking priority of all previous incumbrances.

BARBADOS 1897.

47. The theory is that this is beneficent legislation in the interests of planters and mortgagees, and all connected with the industry, preventing forced sales and giving time to tide over evil days, and so affording an opportunity to all to get their money back by degrees, and to free the estate from debt. It is also held that the system serves to keep an estate in cultivation which would otherwise relapse into waste land, and thus finds occupation for the large number of the poor living on the land.

Theoretically there is much to be said for this, but practically it has proved a doubtful blessing.

If the depression was ephemeral no doubt it would have served its purpose, but, the depression being continuous and increasing in volume, it has only so far resulted in keeping fitful life in a bankrupt estate, in keeping the owner still owner in name, and in holding out a will-o'-the-wisp fantasy to owners and mortgagees that some day things will be better and that they will come by their own again.

The manifest objection to the system is that it puts obstacles in the way of a new ownership, and of possibly fresh capital being laid out on what would, under new conditions, be an unencumbered estate cheaply acquired.

48. I have heard the Chancery system much discussed, equally condemned and extolled; but I have heard a third view of it which is worth considering,—which is as follows :—"Admit "that the Chancery system as a continuance is impossible unless "prices get better—even so, the present moment is not the moment "to abolish it. It is hoped that remedies are at hand and that "central factories will re-establish the industry—give present "owners and mortgagees one more chance, and await the result of "the new departure. Do not ruin them, and do not risk throwing "the land out of cultivation until that chance has been tried. "Then, after fair trial, if you find that estates so placed are "beyond recuperation, abolish your Chancery Act and throw the "estates on the market."

49. The great question of reduced labour likely to be required under more scientific methods of production has not, of course, escaped the Royal Commissioners, and it may be that many labourers may be thrown out of work. But, as this must happen in any case, it will be better that the Island should be in a prosperous condition to deal with the problem when it arises than that it should have to face it with a departing industry and ruined finances.

50. If some larger scheme has in the future to be taken to find means for emigration of the labouring classes, a revived industry would provide better means to meet it; and emigration on a large scale may yet prove a blessing, alike to Barbados labourers and to those neighbouring Islands with much waste

land, many of which only await population, labour, and cultivation to bring them out of the distressed condition in which they at present exist.

51. Although the abundance of labour in Barbados threatens to be one of the difficult problems of the future, it has undoubtedly up to the present served to keep the heads of Barbados planters above water.

Anyone seeing the Island to-day finds it hard to realise the distress which underlies it.

Look around from almost any point, and it is a garden—hardly an acre uncultivated, and the sole sign of depression which does strike one is the neglected condition, as a rule, of the plantation house itself.

Of course, the secret of it is that the industry is eating up the last vestige of its capital.

At present, if one can credit the statements of everyone connected with the sugar industry, the working of a plantation, even under favourable circumstances, hardly makes both ends meet. Each year more incumbrances accrue, and, unless cheaper methods or better prices, or both, come quickly in aid, estates must go out of cultivation ; and it is only on seeing and knowing the Island that one is able to judge of the pity of it.

52. Passing from the sugar industry to other matters of interest concerning the Island, it will not be out of place to put in a plea for the climate of Barbados, and for its merits as a health resort during the winter months.

53. Barbados is very generally of coral formation, and is so porous that all moisture quickly filters away. This coral formation crops up throughout almost to the surface, and the coating of soil on the top, in which the canes flourish, is so slight as to make it difficult to believe at first sight that anything over a foot high can grow on it.

The porous character of the soil, taken in connexion with the absolutely complete cultivation, renders malaria next to impossible, while the strong trade winds which sweep the Island for a great part of the year, coming as they do unimpeded from the open sea, drive out any possible lurking evils which the tropical climate may engender.

54. That it is hot cannot be denied, but even the heat is so tempered by the trade wind that it is far from being unbearable at any time, and it is often non-existent.

55. Of the water supply of the island it is difficult to speak too highly. The underground natural reservoirs, which are, I

BARBADOS 1897.

am informed, the result of the rainfall filtering through the porous coral on to the underlying clay beds, give forth a supply which, so far, has never failed. After a wet season the sources will yield eleven million gallons daily, while even in a time of great drought, as at present, the yield is two and a half million gallons daily, or about twelve and a half gallons per head per day.

This water, which is perfectly pure, is carried by Government over nearly the whole island, and, although, of course, householders are charged where water is laid on for their special use, the poor have an unlimited supply free of charge. Standpipes (to which the coloured population have loyally given the title of "Queen Victoria's Pump") are nearly everywhere erected at short intervals, and there are few places indeed (and there will be fewer as time goes on) where the poorest cannot get an absolutely abundant supply of pure water without any charge, direct or indirect, except such as belongs to him as a citizen of the State and a unit of the Government.

56. In dealing with the Colony of Barbados, the Royal Commissioners in their report have practically said that by its sugar the Colony must stand or fall, and that it is unsuited to the cultivation of coffee, cocoa, and fruit in quantities to be of commercial value; and, so far as has been tried, this is so.

57. Some hope rests on the Manjak industry, which is at present in its infancy.

The meaning or origin of the term "manjak" is, so far as I am aware, unknown, and it appears to be a purely local term.

The substance is bituminous and is a species of asphalt. It varies in quality, being sold to agents on the island locally at prices varying from £7 10s. to £3 10s. per ton.

The mine producing what is known as Merivale's manjak yields, I believe, up to the present, the best quality produced in the island.

This mine may be taken as a favourable example of what has been so far done.

It pays over £50 a week in wages and employs over one hundred hands.

The veins of the material are curiously uncertain, varying in width from a few inches to many feet, pinching and widening capriciously.

Shafts have been sunk to a depth of nearly 100 feet below sea level, and steps have to be taken to get rid of the water which accumulates.

The mining has, so far, been carried out under many difficulties, owing to the lack of capital to develop the industry, and some of the headings are so narrow as to make a visit of inspection a laborious task.

The veins run through walls of infusorial earth locally known as chalk, and through a species of blue clay curiously like diamondiferous blue, but of a somewhat softer character.

For the most part it has been found and worked on the Eastern side of the Island.

Although discovered in many places, it has not yet been found in great quantity; but its quality is such as to make it a profitable industry.

If the matrix of the substance could be ascertained a source of revenue would be opened out which would tend to help the Island out of its industrial troubles.

The less valuable kinds of manjak are used for insulating purposes, but the superior qualities are, I am informed, mainly used for varnish.

The export, which has risen from 878 tons in 1896 to 1,880 tons in 1897, gives great hope of better things in the future, and, with further discoveries, I should not be surprised if this substance made its way as an important item of export, besides giving fresh employment to the overflowing population of the island.

58. Efforts are being made by a British company, registered as the West Indian Oil Syndicate, with a nominal capital of £20,000, to develop an oil industry—and the company have acquired rights over several properties in the Scotland district, where boring has been carried on for the past eighteen months.

There is no official information on this matter, but I am informed that several thousand pounds have been already spent and that expensive machinery has been imported from the United States.

I am also informed that petroleum oil has been already struck in small quantities, and that the results of the syndicate's operations so far are encouraging.

Up to the present, however, only samples have been dealt with.

59. Experiments in various growths likely to be of value are from time to time carried out by the superintendent of that valuable local institution, Dodds Reformatory, but, unfortunately, the limited supply of land available does not permit of very extensive trials.

BARBADOS, 1897.

Some hope is at present entertained that the Ramie Ribbon (*Bechmeria Tenacissima*) may prove a success in cultivation, and opportunities are afforded as far as possible to private persons to experiment with it.

Should present views prove well founded it may be desirable for Government in another year to acquire the necessary machinery, on a small scale, to afford it a thorough test.

60. Barbados has its failings, but it is a fertile colony, with an industrious people, who, though possibly not free from faults of omission in enterprise, have recently struggled bravely against adversity, and who have shewn, and are still shewing, that they are capable of helping themselves.

61. May it not be urged that they are deserving from home, not only of abstract sympathy, but of practical aid which will help to restore to them their prosperity and will make them once more as valuable commercially as they still are loyal politically to the Mother-country?

RALPH WILLIAMS,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Barbados, 26th May, 1898.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 224.

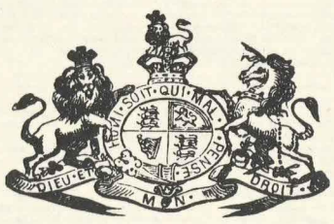
BASUTOLAND.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1896-7.

(For Report for 1895-6, *see* No. 186.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

January, 1898.



LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1897.

[C.—8650-22.] *Price* 3*d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
191	Canada	1895
192	Bermuda	1896
193	Bahamas...	,,
194	Zululand	,,
195	Gambia	,,
196	Malta	,,
197	British New Guinea	1895–96
198	Turks and Caicos Islands	1896
199	Barbados	,,
200	Leeward Islands	1895
201	Trinidad and Tobago	1896
202	Gibraltar...	,,
203	Fiji (Trade)	,,
204	Straits Settlements	1895
205	Do. do.	1896
206	Falkland Islands	,,
207	British Honduras	,,
208	Sierra Leone	,,
209	Grenada	,,
210	Hong Kong	,,
211	St. Lucia	,,
212	St. Vincent	,,
213	St. Helena	,,
214	Seychelles	,,
215	Mauritius	,,
216	Cocos—Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1897
217	Fiji	1896
218	Ceylon	,,
219	Lagos	,,
220	Gold Coast	,,
221	Labuan	,,
222	British Guiana	1896–97
223	Rodrigues	1896

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.

No. 224.

BASUTOLAND.

(For Report for 1895–6, *see* No. 186 of this Series.)

GOVERNOR SIR ALFRED MILNER to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Cape Town,
30th September, 1897.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your information, a copy of a despatch from the Acting Resident Commissioner of Basutoland, enclosing the annual reports on the territory for the year to 30th June last.

There appear to have been more than the usual number of disturbances and tribal disputes during the year, and the position of the Government in the matter is still, I fear, not free from anxiety. Many of these disputes have, as in past years, arisen out of the opposition of various factions to the paramountcy of Lerothodi. Information respecting the regrettable action of Lerothodi's sons in connection with the rinderpest fencing has already been communicated to you in despatches from Lord Rosmead and myself, and further interesting details of the progress and settlement of the dispute will be found in this report.

You have also been informed in various despatches of the advance of rinderpest and the present reports explain in greater detail the efforts made by Sir G. Lagden and his officers to combat the disease, which have been attended with a large amount of success.

It is satisfactory to find that the great losses suffered by the Basutos and the restrictions on traffic involved by this visitation have not had a disastrous effect on trade, the returns of which continue to be encouraging.

15106*—75—11/97 Wt 21620 D & S—5 (B)

BASUTOLAND 1896–7.

No less satisfactory is the fact that the hut tax, the principal source of revenue, was collected without much difficulty in all districts except Berea, the deficit in which appears to have been due more to the laxness of the Chief Masupha and his advisers than to any lack of the means to pay the tax.

On the question of education I am addressing you in a separate despatch.*

While the condition of Basutoland is far from settled, I think that, considering the disturbing effect which the rinderpest necessarily exercises on the native mind, Sir Godfrey Lagden and his subordinates must be congratulated on having got through so trying a year as 1896-7 without any more serious troubles than those which have actually occurred.

I have, &c.,

A. MILNER,
Governor and High Commissioner.

From the ACTING RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, Basutoland,
to the HIGH COMMISSIONER, Cape Town.

Resident Commissioner's Office,
Basutoland,
August, 1897.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit Your Excellency a Report upon British Basutoland for the year ended 30th June, 1897.

In my report last year I referred to the fact that the late political disquietude in South Africa had caused a wave of restlessness in this territory. This appeared to be quietly subsiding when, from a series of causes, it revived again and events occurred which mark the year under review as one of the most disturbed since the occupation in 1884.

Foremost among the causes was the advent of rinderpest, particulars of which will be dealt with in a separate paragraph. From a political point of view it wrought great havoc in the country, proving how easy it is for sudden impulses to put

---

* See Appendix.

otherwise peaceful forces in motion and disturb the national equilibrium. In all native tribes there are those who chafe under any kind of control and readily seize an opportunity to run riot, shake off the fetters, and inflame the masses by alleging some common cause or prophetic alarm.

As the disease approached this country it became necessary to take all possible protective measures to keep it at bay. Amongst other means we had recourse to provision of free zones along the borders, from which it was necessary to remove all cattle. Neighbouring States were concerned to adopt similar methods and at the same time to erect wire fences, to picket armed guards, and to forbid the movement of cattle and people except under specific conditions. The Basuto were thoroughly informed of and affected to appreciate these precautions, which were equally adopted on our side in the public interests. Though Masupha and several other chiefs opposed the proclaimed zones, the Paramount Chief urged that there be no compromise in the matter. They were duly laid down in each district but reluctantly recognised. It is unquestionable that these border precautions warded the disease off for several months. It was, however, an alternative of evils. Unaccustomed to have their cattle thrown back five miles and lose sight of them, to be deprived of milk and fuel within the zone, to lose the benefit of their use for thrashing and transport, a section of the younger chiefs, headed by Lerothodi's own sons, grew fractious and, representing to their people that Government was bent upon making new boundaries and introducing white farmers to the zone, displayed a surly and obstreperous attitude. Considerable bodies of armed men were thrown upon the southern border without reason or notice, threats were freely used towards the Cape Colonial and Free State rinderpest guards, and border relations were for a time much strained. The climax was reached in December, when Makhaola, a junior son of Lerothodi, placed a large armed body of men on the Griqualand East border, obstructed fencing work being executed by the Cape Government, intimidated the workers and guards, and created considerable consternation in Matatiele by their unruly conduct. Our officer, Sub-Inspector J. Griffith, stationed at Qacha's Nek, was also obstructed and menaced in his duty and his communications were cut off.

Upon receipt of Your Excellency's telegram with remonstrances from the Cape Government, I at once proceeded by forced marches to Qacha's Nek, picking up en route three powerful and intelligent sons of Letsie as deputies of the Paramount Chief, who was unable then to ride. On our arrival it became plain that there was very grave unsettlement. Had not Mr. Stanford, the Chief Magistrate of East Griqualand, previously impressed upon his guards and fencers the necessity of being cautious and quiet, in all probability a collision would have ensued. The situation was rendered more grave in consequence of serious

BASUTOLAND 1896–7.

unrest amongst the natives of East Griqualand, who appeared to be coquetting with Makhaola's unruly faction, and the fear of coalition gave rise to apprehension and uneasiness in both territories.

In conjunction with the three chiefs above named, I summoned all those engaged in the disturbance and, after committing to prison four men who were guilty of violence and threats towards Sub-Inspector Griffith, removed Makhaola from the scene to Matsieng in Central Basutoland, until such time as I could deliberate with his father Lerothodi and further investigate matters in presence of leaders of the tribe. Meanwhile the work of fencing proceeded without further friction and border relations assumed their normal status.

The refractory contingent pleaded that, in occupying the border as they had done and in making demonstrations, they were merely carrying out the direct orders of the Paramount Chief, who was supporting the rinderpest regulations. I gathered, however, that in appealing to the people to follow them, the young chiefs had urged that they were alarmed—

(1.) At the fencing which, in the case of Pondoland, had preceded annexation to the Cape.

(2.) The sudden enrolment in Matatiele of several hundred men for the alleged purpose of attacking Basutoland.

(3.) The report that Government was importing loads of ammunition.

(4.) The belief that Basutoland was to be forced open for gold prospecting.

As soon as possible afterwards, a National Pitso was convened at Maseru, of the principal chiefs and councillors in the country. It was fully representative. The Paramount Chief and his three sons were present. The former was in a sullen mood and his sons displayed an arrogant demeanour. After a prolonged investigation, public opinion of the tribe tended to show that it was strongly averse to any complications or intrigues arising from the ill-judged action of Lerothodi's sons, whom it was desirable to curb. In the end it was determined to impose a fine of 100 head of cattle upon those concerned in the Eastern border disturbances, and recommended that the young Chief Makhaola be kept for a time in leading strings at Maseru with definite duties of an educational nature. Lerothodi jibbed at the idea of any restraint being placed upon Makhaola, and his three sons, taking their cue from him, fled from the Pitso in a demonstrative way that led to a panic in the country. Pursuing a defiant course they took up a warlike position near Mafeteng, with a band of turbulent followers, threatening violence to any messengers who approached them and resistance to all overtures. The danger of the situation was aggravated by further threats

directed against European life and property at the village magistracies of Mafeteng and Mohale's Hoek. The principal chiefs repudiated strongly the action of the young chiefs, who shortly gave up in despair their mad career and, on their adherents dispersing, the ill-conceived revolt terminated.

Two or three weeks later the three young chiefs submitted themselves at Maseru, in open Court, tendering humble regrets for their conduct. The fine of 100 cattle was simultaneously paid and Makhaola detained at Matsieng under his father's tutelage.

This submission was humiliating to them and to their respective followers.

Dwarfed in importance to the above events, which hazarded the national peace, but standing out prominently was the tribal opposition of a faction headed by Masupha to the paramountcy of Lerothodi. This opposition has been dwelt upon in a series of previous annual reports. It is the source of most other tribal disputes that agitate the country which, though useful in their way of centering tribal attention upon local affairs, are dangerous in that they might assume large and uncontrollable dimensions. Lord Rosmead's communication that Her Majesty's Government could not tolerate lawless acts and violence had for the time a steadying effect. But natives seem quite unable to fully appreciate warnings for the future when under the influence of ungovernable hate of their own countrymen brought about by interfamily jealousy.

During the year there were several disputes concerning chieftainship over land, though happily unattended with serious fighting. The Chiefs Jonathan, Molapo, and Masupha continue to agitate for entire independence of the Paramount Chief in their own districts, and their action gives rise to various minor quarrels. Lerothodi, on the other hand, is not gifted with largeness of mind enough to be generous in his dealings towards subordinate chiefs, incurring much animosity by premature attempts to force the authority of his own young sons upon other chiefs who enjoy settlements made for them by his predecessors. It is the custom of the tribe that the chief son of the reigning house shall in due time be established or placed. The moment for so doing however requires to be well chosen and the process gradual. Moreover, now that the land is all taken up, the location of heirs apparent can only be provided for by displacement or cheerful acceptance, each prospect offering manifold objections.

4. Some aspects of the rinderpest question have already been alluded to. In August, 1896, by Your Excellency's desire I attended a Conference at Vryburg where representatives from all States in South Africa were present. Thanks to the foresight of the Honourable Mr. Faure in convening this Conference and to

BASUTOLAND 1896–7.

the valuable information and advice imparted by Dr. Hutcheon, principal Veterinary Surgeon of the Cape Colony, many of those present were able to learn practically the best measures to be adopted in territorial defence against the epidemic. On my return to Basutoland steps were immediately taken, by Conferences of both Europeans and natives, to discuss the matter in all its bearings and to prepare comprehensive schemes and regulations for the stoppage of animal traffic and disinfection of persons at certain ports of entry at any given moment when near approach of the disease required it. These regulations were made public and, by telegraph early in October last, glided successfully into operation. The European community, thoroughly realizing the deadly nature of the disease, afforded Government ready and loyal assistance, though at times the restrictions pressed hard and inconveniently upon them. The natives, on the other hand, though affecting to be alarmed, almost ridiculed the existence of any disease for which their own native doctors had no specific. Though, taken on the whole, they behaved well when it really struck their cattle, and took their losses philosophically, the initial hesitation proved costly to them. They opposed the zones, fretted under the restrictions to traffic, and irritated the magistrates by saying, if the disease came, it would be introduced by the agency of Government. In spite of many obstacles, the policy of Government was quietly but firmly to stop or regulate all traffic from infected areas. By such means the epidemic was kept out of the country for five months though raging along our border. Then, when it appeared amongst the Bataung of Mohale's Hoek district in March, 1897, Dr. Koch's method of gall inoculation had been discovered and we were ready to apply it. The opposition to inoculation at first was general and marked. When, however, the people found there was no pressure brought upon them and the Paramount Chief and other leaders had witnessed and agreed to suffer the process, the opposition gave way to a demand which we had neither a sufficiency of gall, syringes, or men to supply. We had only one veterinary surgeon—Mr. Armstrong. Guided by the political officers, he got through a lot of work, and before very long nearly all Government officers had become proficient in all that was required. Then, as the disease struck each district, the Assistant Commissioners were prepared to follow up the work of inoculation independently; and they did it well, turning up their sleeves to it as a rule with vigour and success. In this systematic way it is estimated that about 100,000 cattle were inoculated, of which perhaps 70,000 are immunized. Some chiefs, like Masupha and Bereng Letsie, refused it altogether, and have lost almost their entire herds. Their people, being unable or unwilling to dissent from their chiefs, suffered equally. It is probable that losses of this description number over 100,000.

Our present difficulty is that the immunity conferred by one inoculation is said by experts not to last more than three or

four months. This has not yet proved the case in Basutoland. Meanwhile, we are concerting measures for securing further or permanent immunity by serum treatment should there be a recrudescence of the disease. BASUTOLAND 1896-7.

5. During a year marked by the general paralysis caused by rinderpest and its attendant drawbacks, it is hard to indicate any national progress. Nevertheless it may be construed as a token of enlightenment that the Basuto, having suffered enormous losses of cattle, which constitute their wealth, reconciled themselves with a fortitude worthy of note. They readily adapted themselves to new conditions by using their ponies for ploughing and transport, in many cases turning again to the abandoned hoe rather than groan under the misfortune of being unable to cultivate. Their desire for acquiring money by labour received a check owing to the restrictions placed upon travelling by quarantine regulations. Consequently only 11,778 received passes for this purpose compared with 28,000 in the preceding year. Now that all restrictions are removed they are proceeding to the gold fields in great numbers.

6. In suppressing crime and facilitating the ends of justice the chiefs have as a rule continued to behave reasonably. Though at times the course of administration meets with opposition, the Basutoland Regulations are fairly submitted to and matters affecting foreign affairs are not seriously interfered with.

The liquor traffic during the time the border was closed experienced a lull. Since opening communications however I regret that much illicit trade has followed. It is almost hopeless to suppress this traffic whilst so many border squatters of unscrupulous character carry on the sale at attractive profits. Some licensed canteen-keepers in the Orange Free State supply large quantities retailed in bottles, but the Government of that State has made repeated efforts to discountenance and check this illegal sale.

7. Trade returns show a satisfactory increase in imports and exports. The Customs revenue is again a record, amounting to £14,470, which, deducted from £18,000 paid by the Cape, leaves £3,530 as their contribution for the year. It is possible however that store-keepers laid in rather heavier stocks than usual, fearing rinderpest regulations might entail a block in transport.

8. Crops on the whole were remarkably good. There was falling off in wheat due to a heavy spring drought, but Kaffir corn and mealies, though sown late, developed rapidly and matured well. Prices ruled fairly high and taken altogether the producer had a good season. I was compelled again, owing to rinderpest, to stop the holding of agricultural shows which, though comparatively insignificant, are enterprising and useful.

BASUTOLAND 1896–7.

9. Crime statistics compare very favourably with previous years. There were the usual number of culpable homicides, arising in nearly all cases from over indulgence in Kaffir beer that led to village brawls. The native police, though drawn from and under the influence to some extent of districts chiefs, performed their duties efficiently and well. All stock actually traced into the country as having been stolen from neighbouring territories was recovered and the thieves brought to justice.

10. The public health generally was good. A few fever epidemics prevailed without any serious mortality. There was much reason to fear that the presence of many thousands of rinderpest carcases strewed over the veldt must result in heavy sickness, more especially as the meat was nearly always consumed. But these anticipations have not so far been fulfilled. Efforts were made to have these carcases buried or destroyed. The ground however was proved too hard to open on any large scale, and shallow graves were undoubtedly worse than open exposure to the desiccating effects of wind and sun.

Hospital and medical work is dealt with in the reports of Medical Officers and continue to be usefully maintained. Dr. Long calls special attention to the great prevalence amongst the European population of nerve complaints, which he ascribes principally to high altitude and extremes of temperature.

11. Though the general revenue was slightly in excess of the previous year, Hut Tax was a little under. This was due to arrears in the Berea District where the Assistant Commissioner invariably experiences great difficulty in getting the Chief Masupha to fulfil the fiscal duties discharged by other responsible chiefs. Masupha's personal allowance has been reduced in consequence ; but he seems unwilling to take up the work entrusted to him as a part of the common system. With this exception Hut Tax shows nearly everywhere else an increase proportionate to the growth of population. There were arrears in Mohale's Hoek, but, on enquiry, I find that rinderpest work accounts for it rather than unwillingness to pay.

12. The work of education was obstructed also on account of rinderpest. At times whole villages and even clans were cut off from the school system. Yet the gross returns of average attendance show an upward tendency.

The various mission societies continue to carry on with success their hard and meritorious efforts on behalf of education and religion, giving prominence to the value and necessity of labour and industry.

13. In closing this Report, which is stamped by the mark of "Rinderpest," I beg to bear special testimony to the good work, as a body, of the officers of the Administration. By the exercise

of much occasional forbearance, of tact, and energy they contributed largely to the successful passage through an embarrassing year.

I have, &c.,

G. Y. LAGDEN,
Acting Resident Commissioner.

His Exellency
The High Commissioner, &c.,
South Africa.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1896-7.

ACTING GOVERNMENT SECRETARY.

Finance.

The Revenue of Basutoland, during the year ended 30th June, 1897, was :—

	£	s.	d.
Colonial Contribution	18,000	0	0
Hut Tax	22,810	5	0
Post Office Revenue	1,341	18	3
Licences	1,465	0	0
Fines	601	2	0
Ferry tolls	267	4	6
Fees	42	13	4
Miscellaneous Revenue	1,339	8	1
Total ...	£45,867	11	2

The Hut Tax is composed of tax paid for the year under report, £21,992 15*s.*; and arrears of tax, £817 10*s.* There is a slight falling off in the amount of tax collected as compared with the tax paid during the previous year, viz., £22,966 6*s.* 4*d.*, caused by the deficiency in Berea and Mohale's Hoek Districts. All other districts have exceeded the amount of their previous year's collections.

Considerable expenditure has been necessitated under the head of rinderpest by the measures which have been taken to guard and quarantine the border, and to organise and carry out a system of inoculation thoughout the country. This extraordinary expenditure, amounting to £5,478, has been a serious drain upon

BASUTOLAND 1896–7.

the resources of the Administration and has permitted of a refund to the Cape Government of £99 3*s.* 10*d.* only.

Trade.

The Customs returns for the twelve months ended 31st March, 1897, show that dutiable goods were imported into Basutoland during that period as follows :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
From the Cape Colony...	64,130	0	0
Through the Orange Free State ...	71,430	0	0
Total	£135,560	0	0

Similar returns for the previous year showed an amount of dutiable goods imported of £104,858. There has thus been, notwithstanding restrictions upon traffic, a very considerable increase in the amount of imports, which may perhaps be partly accounted for by the desire of traders to stock their stores before transport should become altogether improcurable, and partly by the augumented purchasing power of the Basuto on account of the good prices obtained for their produce.

Consequent upon the growth of this import trade there has been an increase in the amount of Customs dues credited to Basutoland (as a territory within the Customs Union) and paid to the Cape Government in reduction of the amount contributed to the Basutoland revenue. The following are the Customs thus earned :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
On goods imported from the Cape Colony ...	6,917	16	0
„ „ through the Orange Free State	7,553	3	6
Total	£14,470	19	6

The amount thus actually contributed by the Cape Government is less than £3,500. It is necessary again to notice that there is a large amount of border trade done with the Basuto, by the numerous stores on the border, within the Orange Free State. There is no means of ascertaining with exactitude the amount of this trade, nor is it included in the above figures.

The following is a comparative return of exports and values for the two years ending 31st December, 1895, and 31st December, 1896, respectively. As these returns do not include the period from March to June, 1897, during which the destruction of the transport cattle by rinderpest took place, it is not possible to gather from them the effect which the ravages of the disease will have upon the export of produce from Basutoland, nor are we

in a position yet to fully realize the economical results of the losses which the country has sustained.

Articles.	Year ended 31 December, 1895.				Year ended 31 December, 1896.			
	Quantity.	Value.			Quantity.	Value.		
		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Wheat (muids)...	151,077	74,475	4	0	47,482	45,111	19	0
Mealies „ ...	82,429	33,857	9	8	99,975	75.522	5	6
Kaffir corn „ ...	3,681	1,675	14	6	9,920	8,605	14	1
Meal „ ...	4,037	4,529	0	0	1,767	2,520	10	0
Mealie meal „ ...	1,361	832	14	0	600	554	11	0
Wool (lbs) ...	1,116,999	15,988	0	2	1,048,133	14,200	12	1
Mohair „ ...	83,657	3,499	7	2	68,023	3,147	12	3
Cattle	427	1,348	5	6	917	3,684	10	0
Horses	409	1,964	19	6	964	6,383	2	6
Miscellaneous ...	—	1,325	1	5	—	546	3	9
Totals ...	—	139.495	15	11	—	160,277	0	2

The above exports were thus divided :—

	£	s.	d.
To the Cape Colony	41,605	0	1
To the Orange Free State ...	118,672	0	1
Total ...	£160,277	0	2

Licences to trade within the country were issued to 141 general traders, and 47 hawkers. There were also issued 62 free hawkers' licences to residents in the Orange Free State.

Meteorological and Agricultural.

The following results have been obtained by observations taken at the various stations.

Average rainfall	37½ inches.
Daily range of temperature (approximate)	48
Minimum registered	18
Maximum registered	101

BASUTOLAND 1896–7.

No agricultural shows were again held this year on account of the prevalence of rinderpest. It is difficult to forecast the agricultural prospects for the coming year, but it is pleasing to notice that the Basuto who have lost their ploughing cattle are facing their difficulties with admirable fortitude and are industriously cultivating their lands with hand picks and hoes. It is reported by traders that there has been an enormous demand for these articles.

Labour and Passes.

The following table, showing the passes issued during the past year and the two previous years, reveals a remarkable falling off in the number of natives who have left the territory in search of work. This is, of course, attributable to the prohibition as to the movements of natives through the Orange Free State. The roads are now again open to the Basuto who may wish to seek work at Johannesburg or in other directions, but the restrictions upon traffic which have for several months been necessarily enforced must have seriously reduced the amount of cash which has been brought into the country, which will probably be only too apparent during the coming year.

Return of Passes.

1894–95.			1895–96.			1896–97.		
Labour.	Other purposes.	Total.	Labour.	Other purposes.	Total.	Labour.	Other purposes.	Total.
25,384	37,495	62,879	28,115	41,286	69,401	11,778	19,521	31,299

Police and Crime.

The following is the strength of the Police force :—

European officers	9
European constables	10
Native officers	6
Native non-commissioned officers ...	16
Native privates	204
Total ...	245

Return of Police work :—

Number of patrols	1,493
Number of men engaged	2,693
Estimated distance travelled	74,208 miles.
Arrests for Liquor Laws	44
Arrests for Pass Laws...	77
Arrests for other offences	119

More patrolling has been done than during the previous year, but fewer arrests have been made. It is obvious that the quarantine regulations enforced both in Basutoland and the neighbouring territories have tended to check all border irregularities. The return of criminal convictions shows (as might be expected) a decrease in the number of offences against Pass Laws and Liquor Laws and a number of convictions for breaches of the Rinderpest Quarantine Regulations.

Assault	16
Customs Laws (Breach of)	1
Contempt of Court	11
Fraud	1
Culpable Homicide	9
Liquor Laws (Breach of)	37
Rape	3
Pass Laws (Breach of)	60
Resisting Police	8
Theft	50
Trading Regulations (Breach of) ...	6
Other offences	79
Rinderpest Rules (Breach of)	102
Total ...	383
Civil cases	31

The return of stock lost and recovered shows that all lost stock definitely reported as having been traced into Basutoland has been recovered.

Stock.	Reported.	Traced.	Not Traced.	Recovered.	Not Recovered.
Horses ...	79	35	44	43	36
Cattle... ...	119	15	104	23	96
Sheep and goats	334	62	272	64	270

BASUTOLAND 1896–7.

Postal and Telegraphic.

This Department of the Administration shows an increase both in the amount of work done and in the receipts. The returns show an increase of 40,000 in the number of letters, papers, postcards, bookpackets, &c. sent out of Basutoland and an increase of 20,000 in the number of letters received.

I have the honour to submit the following reports for the past year :—

The Assistant	Commissioner	Leribe
,,	,,	Berea
,,	,,	Maseru
,,	,,	Mafeteng
,,	,,	Mohale's Hoek
,,	,,	Quthing
,,	,,	Qacha's Nek
The Officer in Charge	...	Butha Buthe
The Principal Medical Officer		Maseru
The Medical Officer	...	Leribe
,, ,,	...	Mafeteng
,, ,,	...	Mohale's Hoek

H. C. SLOLEY,
Acting Government Secretary.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1896–7.

LERIBE DISTRICT.

The peace of the district has remained undisturbed during the past year, and, though various causes of dispute which still exist between the different chiefs become from time to time more or less acute, the political situation remains much as it was. The relationship between Letsika and Jonathan has, I think, undergone a change for the better, while that between Peete and Seshopi is probably more strained, and the same may be said of the situation at Butha Buthe between Joel and Tlasoa. It is, however, satisfactory to note that, notwithstanding these causes of friction, there has been no actual breach of the peace, and that the tendency of aggrieved chieftains to rush to arms and raid each others cattle, which at one time was so marked, has given place to an evident desire to stand well with the authorities.

The crisis caused by Lerothodi's sons last summer was, of course, not without its effect here. Chiefs and people were anxious and uneasy, and there was a good deal of warlike preparation going on. I do not think, however, that the Leribe chiefs, except possibly the Peete section of the Ramanella clan, were much in sympathy with Lerothodi's sons, or that any of them would have taken part in a rebellion had one broken out.

The question of mountain pasturage for the Leribe people alluded to in my last report remains still unsettled, and while it so remains there is not much chance of a satisfactory understanding between Lerothodi and Jonathan.

The revenue for the year under report is as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Hut Tax	5,519	10	0
Licences	412	0	0
Fines	99	0	6
Fees	2	5	6
Miscellaneous	329	15	9
Total ...	£6,362	11	9

Arrear Hut Tax amounted to £243, of which sum more than half was collected at Butha Buthe. Tax was paid on 10,675 huts.

Licences issued during the year were :—

General traders	40
Paid hawkers	22
Free hawkers	7

Crops have been abundant, but owing to the scarcity, one almost might say the absence, of transport caused by rinderpest, they represent little or no purchasing power. This, of course, will not be without its effect on the Customs receipts.

The current prices paid to natives are at present approximately :—

Wheat	20*s.* per muid
Mealies	6*s.* „
Kaffir corn	8*s.* „
Forage	20*s.* per 100 bundles
Cattle	unsaleable
Sheep and goats	12*s.* each
Horses	£10 to £20 each.

These figures have been furnished by local traders. Those against mealies and Kaffir corn must only be regarded as

BASUTOLAND 1896–7.

potential rates. As a matter of fact, very little is being bought at all, for the reasons stated above. So little wheat is produced in the district that what there is still commands a price.

I subjoin a return of patrols performed by Police during the year. Since the closing of the border in October last the strain upon all ranks has been very severe.

Number of patrols	354
Number of men employed	523
Distance covered	2,200 miles
Arrests for Liquor Laws	6
Arrests for Pass Laws	29
Arrests for other offences	18

Relationship with neighbouring States continues to be of a friendly nature.

The following is a list of cases tried in my Court during the year :—

Civil actions	11
Theft	22
Assault	2
Contravention Liquor Laws	9
Contravention Pass Laws	24
Contravention Rinderpest Laws	10
Culpable Homicide	3
Resisting Police	1
Contempt of Court	1
Housebreaking	1
Bribery	1
Sodomy	1
Minor offences	52

The number of Passes issued are :—

Seeking employment	2140
Other purposes	6249
Total	8389

NOTE.—During the greater portion of the year natives have not been allowed to travel in the Free State.

The following table shows the result of action taken in the matter of tracing and recovering lost or stolen stock.

Stock.	Reported.	Traced.	Not Traced.	Recovered.	Not Recovered.
Horses ...	18	12	6	12	6
Cattle ...	14	3	11	3	11

Two stolen horses are now in custody, but until the case is heard it is not known whether they are among those reported. Should they be so the numbers would read recovered 14, not recovered 4.

Rinderpest broke out in this district early in November at Fobane Mountain and Monyamaneng Valley almost simultaneously. The cattle infected belonged to one man, a headman named Lethlatsa, whose village is at Fobane, and whose cattle post is at Monyamaneng. Both places were strictly quarantined and a policeman and a man of Jonathan's placed in charge. All egress or ingress to either place was strictly prohibited. The quarantine thus imposed was well carried out and for three months there was no spread of the disease outside these areas. At Fobane it died out; about 120 cattle having died and 25 salted. The quarantine was however maintained until it was possible to burn the grass in the neighbourhood, and then, all remains of dead cattle having been buried, the place was declared open. There were not many remains to dispose of, so this work was easy at this place. Most of the dead cattle were eaten by the quarantined villagers without their having suffered from any illness as far as I can hear.

At Monyamaneng the case was different. There are no villages there and the only people about there were a few herd boys. The carcases were collected periodically and burned. There is plenty of wood there and with the help of a good quantity of paraffin the work was effectually done. 1,020 cattle died at Monyamaneng out of which number 94 "salted;" 11 are reported as not having taken the disease though among sick cattle all the time, but I am assured by the Veterinary Surgeon that this is impossible and that they probably had the disease in a very mild form.

From November to March there was no spread of rinderpest from these two places, and on the 11th March it broke out at Koaki's in the Ramanella ward. The same policy was pursued there as at Fobane, viz.:—that of rigid quarantine, with a policeman in charge. There was no spread from the infected area and on May 26th the disease died out; 125 cattle died and 4 salted.

On the 15th June rinderpest broke out at Seshope's and up to now 120 have died. The disease is still raging there. On May 24th Ntebele's village became infected and the disease was stamped out by Jonathan, upon his own responsibility, shooting all the sick cattle and driving those not affected into the quarantined area at Monyamaneng.

During the last few weeks in June the disease got the upper hand and spread like wildfire, probably from Berea District, and

since then I have not been able to collect trustworthy statistics but will do so as soon as possible.

Inoculation according to the Koch method has now been adopted, but it is premature to say whether it has been successful or otherwise.

I attach reports by the officer in charge at Butha Buthe and the Medical Officer Leribe.

J. C. MACGREGOR,

Assistant Commissioner.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1896–7.

BEREA DISTRICT.

On the 2nd February, 1897, I resumed charge of the district from Sub-Inspector W. Boxwell, who had been acting in my absence on duty at Maseru.

Early in July, 1896, the Resident Commissioner went to Mosalomane to look into some claims put forward by Masupha to the detriment of Peete. The line between these chiefs had already been plainly defined, but Masupha sought to reopen the question. The Resident Commissioner, while he upheld the existing line, suggested that Peete by an amicable arrangement between the two chiefs should lend gardens to those of Masupha's people who needed them. Masupha was not satisfied with this and expressed his intention of going up and rectifying the line to suit himself. He, however, listened to reason and nothing lately has been heard of his claim.

Peete was at the same time informed that he must not attempt to set up as an independent chief; that he had local jurisdiction in his own ward but was responsible to Masupha in all matters affecting the welfare of the district.

It may be remarked here that to this habit of Peete ignoring all chiefs but the Paramount may be traced many of the worries and anxieties to which he is continually subjected.

Masupha, though quite willing to acquire more power himself, is naturally unwilling to see his undoubted rights curtailed. Could Peete consent to take his proper position among the

chiefs he would undoubtedly find his lines cast in much more pleasant places than they are at present.

About the same time a question arose which was watched with interest as a test case. A man named Ramphale who had been eaten up by Thebe Masupha on a charge of witchcraft, after taking his complaint to the native chiefs, appealed to the Assistant Commissioner. The Resident Commissioner on being referred to insisted on the cattle being returned. After some delay they were reluctantly handed to the complainant.

Throughout the latter part of December and early in January persistent rumours were rife to the effect that trouble would arise with the Free State at the New Year on some part of the border. None arose on the Berea section, but the behaviour of the sons of Lerothodi during January caused intense excitement throughout the district. The whole talk of the people was "war" and the usual friendly politeness of the natives to white people was changed to an attitude of semi-contemptuous insolence. This continued till the middle of February, when the aspect of affairs having changed elsewhere, matters quieted down and gradually returned to their usual condition.

At this time I received numerous complaints from Masupha and Peete to the effect that each of them ignored the judgments of the other, and that in cases where their respective followers were concerned justice was practically at a standstill. This state still continues and is, of course, another outcome of Peete's line of conduct referred to above.

Early in May a rather serious riot occurred between Peete and one of his dependent headmen named Lejaha. Lejaha has taken up the same attitude towards Peete as Peete has towards Masupha. Guns were used but fortunately no casualties occurred, though in the village of Tsiami a man of Lejaha's was looted. Peete reported to Lerothodi and Lejaha to Masupha, each thus ignoring his proper channel of complaint, and as nothing could be arranged I was directed to hear the case with Marthinus Masupha. The result showed both sides in the wrong and a fine of about fifty cattle was imposed.

A few weeks ago Masupha suddenly preferred a claim to some lands belonging to Leshuburu on the grounds that Moshesh had given them to him many years ago, and he now wished to resume. The case is still sub judice and it is therefore perhaps as well to make no remarks upon it.

Liquor is still smuggled in from the Free State, but not, I believe, to any very great extent. Three smugglers were trapped in and near Ladybrand by detectives from this Office. Two convictions were obtained and one absconded before trial.

Police.

The strength of this detachment of Police is as follows, all mounted :—

1 European Sub-Inspector.
1 European Constable.
1 Native Sergeant.
1 Native Corporal.
1 Native Lance-Corporal.
23 Privates.

28
2 Temporary Privates (Rinderpest).

30

Owing to rinderpest duty the Police here, as elsewhere, have been subjected to a severe strain which they have met most cheerfully and energetically, and I beg to bring their good behaviour to your notice. Their horses, owing to hard work, are at present rather thin but, together with the men, are quite efficient.

Lost Stock.

Little stock has been reported from the Orange Free State as lost. A table is appended :—

Stock.	Reported.	Traced.	Recovered.	Not Traced.	Not Recovered	Remarks.
Horses	2	2	2	—	—	
Cattle	15	—	—	15	15	
Sheep	—	—	—	—	—	
Goats	—	—	—	—	—	

Patrols.

The following return shows patrols by the Police for the year, and results :—

Number of patrols	128
Number of men engaged	307
Number of miles covered	11,248
Number of arrests for Liquor Laws	8
Number of arrests for Pass Law	2
Number of arrests for Miscellaneous	15

Passes.

The following return of Passes issued at this Office during 1896–7, as compared with 1895–6, shows how largely the labour market has been affected by the Rinderpest Laws in the Orange Free State and the Transvaal :—

Year.	For Labour.	For other Purposes.	Total.
1895–6	4,715	4,289	9,004
1896–7	1,527	1,562	3,089

Judicial.

I give below the list of cases heard in this Court during the year. The chiefs gave all assistance necessary in the capture of prisoners.

Contravening Pass Laws	2
Contravening Rinderpest Regulations	22
Contravening Liquor Regulations	3
Culpable Homicide	6
Theft	1
Pretended Witchcraft	1
Breach of the Peace	17
Resisting the Police...	2
Civil cases	2

Revenue.

I regret to say that Revenue, or rather Hut Tax, shows a lamentable falling off. Hut Tax is £354 10*s.* in arrear of last year, and this deficit can be put down to nothing but Masupha's supineness. He sometimes pleads that his people are emigrating, but though a few have left him, it can only be a few. Year by year Masupha promises to arouse himself and exert his authority, but year by year, as age creeps on him, he allows the tax to be worse and worse paid. There is money and enough in the district, the only thing needed was for the chief to give the word in earnest, and he has not done so. I consider his councillors and elder sons are also greatly to blame for not

BASUTOLAND 1896-7.

reminding him from time to time. Revenue for 1896-7 in detail of heads is as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Hut Tax	2,496	0	0
Licences	320	12	6
Fees of office	4	2	6
Miscellaneous	17	8	3
Total	£2,838	3	3

Of the above sum of £2,496, Hut Tax arrears amount to £154 10*s*.

Licences.

There are 23 traders licences held in the district. During the year there were 12 hawkers licences issued, of which 7 were paid and 5 were free.

Roads.

The roads are in fair order, but in the present state of things they are not called upon to carry much traffic.

Relations with Bordering States.

There has been little intercourse between here and the Orange Free State, owing to rinderpest, but where necessary I have received assistance from the border officials.

Rinderpest.

On the 3rd October, 1896, after the National Pitso, it was determined by the Resident Commissioner that a five mile zone should be instituted, free of all cattle, along the Free State border, that the drifts should be stopped, and that only certain ports of entry should be open for goods and passenger traffic.

These ports of entry were to be provided with proper disinfecting apparatus and buildings. It was not at this time proposed to have a port of entry in Berea District.

On the 6th October, Sub-Inspector Boxwell, who was acting in my absence, marked out the line in conjunction with Martinus Masupha and Leshuburu, who are the border chiefs of the district. Police were stationed at different places on the River Caledon, and the chiefs promised to provide a constant supply of border guards to close the drifts and prevent traffic across the

river. Nothing was done by them, however, and in no one case was assistance afforded the police in the execution of their duty, nor were any guards set.

A week or so later, Masupha having represented the need of a port at Hanger's Drift, Mr. Boxwell was desired to erect the necessary buildings and oven at that drift for disinfection of foot passengers only. Horses and goods were not to be allowed through. This was done, and by the end of October everything was in working order.

Shortly after this, rinderpest broke out at Fobane and Monyameneng, two places in the Leribe District, on the Phutiatsana River, which divides the two districts from each other. The Phutiatsana was therefore closed from the source to the junction with the Caledon, with the exception of two drifts, which were left open for necessary traffic under disinfection.

This outbreak, however, did not spread to Berea and the district remained clean till 30th May.

In January the Resident Commissioner, at the request of Lerothodi and his councillors, reduced the five mile zone to 1000 yards.

At this time, arrangements having been made with the Free State Government that their disinfecting should be done by our staff, and at our stations, the work in disinfecting reapers en route fell very heavy indeed on the men employed.

Although the zone had been kept very fairly clear of cattle since the institution, yet the chiefs were lukewarm, and native low class opinion was distinctly unfavourable to it. The people appeared to distrust the motives of Government, and—living in the present as they do—cared nothing for "future" contingencies in comparison to the "present" discomfort of want of milk and fuel.

In spite of all the police could do people crossed and recrossed, and the 1000 yards zone was broken by Sebolai's own cattle, which drank in the river. As it turned out, however, no harm appears to have been done to Berea by this laxness on the part of border headmen.

In the latter half of May a man came from Thaba-na-Morena with two head of cattle said to have been stolen. He came to the village of Marutuba under Makoadi. On the 30th May cattle were reported dying at the village. I went out and found the disease to be rinderpest; from that moment the disease ran riot over the district, disregarding the spasmodic attempts made by Mamathe and Martinus to institute quarantine lines.

The Chief Masupha is opposed to inoculation, and his people cannot try it until he agrees to it. No consent has at the present moment been given, and the people's cattle are dying literally

by scores each night. The only wards not yet infected are those of Thebe and Peete Lesaoana.

According to returns obtained by a village to village visitation I find that at least 5980 cattle have died of rinderpest in Berea between 30th May and 30th June, 1897.

The only inoculation so far done in this district has been 27 cattle belonging to this camp, of which 7 died and 20 have recovered and are in perfect health.

In some villages the cattle have been actually annihilated, others have suffered less, but I believe that, taking the average of those villages where the disease has run its course, 97 per cent. or 98 per cent. will be found to be the death rate of uninoculated cattle.

In conclusion I would point out the curious anomaly that the Basuto, who are so keenly alive to the necessity of quarantine from infection in the case of smallpox patients, appear utterly unable to realize the risk of infection in this disease, and the necessity for the same or greater precautions being taken to prevent its spread.

L. WROUGHTON,
Assistant Commissioner.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1896–7.

MASERU DISTRICT.

General.

With the exception of a few garden disputes which crop up annually, and the excitement caused by the action of the sons of Lerothodi upon the occasion of their being reprimanded for their hostile attitude on the border, where steps were being taken to prevent the spread of rinderpest, the district has been peaceful.

Towards the end of September last, all traders in the country were invited to Maseru to discuss with Government and decide upon some action to combat the spread of rinderpest to Basutoland. It was decided to close the border, to establish ports of entry, to erect fumigating and disinfecting stations, and to clear a five mile zone along the border of all cattle. These precautions were submitted to the Basuto at the annual Pitso and met with approval. A native vigilance committee of

five men selected by the chiefs in the district was formed to assist us in guarding the border and in all other work in connection with rinderpest.

Some months afterwards, upon the Chiefs Masupha and Jonathan representing the hardships the people living within the zone were put to by the absence of their stock, and the fact that the ploughing season was on, the five mile zone was reduced to one of a thousand yards.

The closing of the border enabled us to keep out the disease till after Professor Koch's method of inoculation was discovered.

The disease broke out in this district early in May and has spread from kraal to kraal with alarming rapidity; the whole of the ward is now infected. Inoculation was started on the 14th May and continues to be carried on. Very favourable results are obtained with clean herds, a percentage of 70 being rendered immune, while the inoculation of infected cattle is a hopeless task. Some twelve thousand cattle have been inoculated in this district; the work is being done by Europeans and native assistants.

Commercial.

Trade has been brisk and good prices have been paid for grain; wool, hides, &c., were not in demand, the exportation thereof being prohibited by the Free State and Colonial Rinderpest Regulations.

Public Works.

The roads in the district are in fairly good order.

Police.

The district detachment consists of—

Sub-Inspector	1
European Constables	4
Native Sergeants	1
Native Corporals	2
Native Privates	46

who performed the following patrols:—

Number of patrols	249
Number of men engaged	321
Number of miles patrolled	9,025
Arrests for Liquor Laws	Nil
Arrests for Pass Laws	Nil
Arrests for other offences	5

BASUTOLAND 1896–7.

The chiefs in the district render every assistance in the matter of recovering lost and stolen stock reported. The following is a return showing the action taken in the matter of recovering lost or stolen stock :—

Stock.	Reported.	Traced.	Not Traced.	Recovered.	Not Recovered.	Remarks.
Horses	17	5	12	5	12	—
Cattle	37	—	37	—	29	8 recovered in O.F.S.

The following cases were tried in my Court :—

Theft	10
Common assault	3
Contravening Vagrancy Act	1
Contravening Liquor Regulations ...	1
Contravening Rinderpest Regulations ...	6
Contravening Pound Regulations ...	1
Gaol breaking	
Resisting Police	1
Contravening Master and Servants Act...	1
Contempt of Court	1
Civil actions	12

The presence of police on both sides of the border required for enforcing Rinderpest Regulations accounts for the falling off of the liquor traffic.

Revenue.

The Revenue for the twelve months amounts to—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Hut Tax	3,905	0	0
Licences	259	0	0
Fines	46	1	0
Ferry tolls	106	9	0
Fees	6	6	0
Miscellaneous	397	7	1
Total	£4,720	3	1

Tax was paid on 7,512 huts. Arrear Tax collected amounts to £149.

Passes.

The following number of Passes were issued :—

Seeking employment	1,919
Other purposes...	1,113
Total	3,032

The issue of passes to natives through or to the Free State was stopped several months ago by desire of the Government of that State. This was done in consequence of Rinderpest Regulations, which forbid the movement of natives about the country.

Licences.

The following Licences were issued during the year :—

General traders	25
Paid hawkers	9
Free hawkers	17

Relations with bordering States continue to be friendly.

The celebration of the Queen's Record Reign took place at Maseru on the 22nd June, and the occasion was demonstrated in a most becoming and fitting manner.

C. GRIFFITHS,
Acting Assistant Commissioner

ANNUAL REPORT, 1896-7.

MAFETENG DISTRICT.

In January the peace of the district was much disturbed by the riotous behaviour of Letsie, Makhaola, and Griffith, sons of the paramount chief Lerothodi Letsie. Makhaola had been arrested and taken to Maseru on a charge of creating disturbance on the East Griqualand border, and fearing punishment, he and his two elder brothers fled to Letsie's village at Dikhoele, Mafeteng District, and for several days their unruly conduct was a menace to this magistracy.

The two eventually submitted themselves to the authority of the Resident Commissioner and the Paramount Chief, and their cases were dealt with.

Rinderpest spread from the Rouxville District, Orange Free State, and first appeared at Sephapho's, close to Mafeteng, in

BASUTOLAND 1896–7.

March. Stringent measures were at once taken to stamp out the disease by quarantining the infected area ; this, however, did not check the progress of the disease, and in a few weeks the plague spread throughout the district.

Dr. Koch's method of inoculation has been tried on about 20,000 cattle with a fair amount of success, and cattle inoculated at the end of March are still alive and healthy. Mortality amongst cattle has been very great, and according to the latest returns 11,000 which were not inoculated died from the disease in this district.

The following is a return of Police patrols during the past year :—

Number of patrols	212
Number of men engaged	621
Estimated distance travelled, miles ...	14,399
Arrests for Liquor Laws	9
Arrests for Pass Laws	9
Arrests for other offences	28

The police detachment at this station, in addition to their ordinary duties, were employed as rinderpest quarantine guards ; the men acquitted themselves well and are useful and efficient.

The strength of the detachment is—

1 Sub-Inspector
3 European Constables
1 Native Constable
1 Native Officer
1 Native Sergeant
1 Native Corporal
31 Native Privates.

There have been very few cases of stock theft from neighbouring States as will be seen by the attached table, showing results of action in the matter of tracing lost and stolen stock. Many of the animals not traced were reported by telegram as lost in the Free State, and the officials who reported the loss are now unable to say whether these were subsequently recovered in the Free State by their owners or not.

Stock.	Reported.	Traced.	Not Traced.	Recovered.	Not Recovered.	Remarks.
Horses	5	1	4	1	4	
Cattle	14	6	8	6	8	
Sheep	106	40	66	40	66	

Good average crops of cereals were gathered during the last season, and there is a plentiful supply of food in the district. The outlook for the coming year is most gloomy, because rinderpest has killed off most of the cattle, so very few people will be able to plough.

I attach a return of Licences granted :—

General traders (shops)	23
Paid hawkers	5
Free hawkers	20

The quarantine regulations have prevented hawkers coming into Basutoland as was customary previous to the outbreak of rinderpest.

Local prices of produce have ruled, viz. :—

Mealies	13*s.* per muid
Kaffir corn	17*s.* „
Wheat	20*s.* „
Wool	3*d.* per lb.
Cattle (slaughter)	70*s.* each
Ponies	120*s.* „

I attach a return of civil and criminal cases tried in the Assistant Commissioner's Court :—

Civil suits	1
Contravening Liquor Laws	7
Contravening Pass Laws	5
Contravening Rinderpest Regulations ...	40
Theft	2
Assault	1
Forgery	1

Information was laid against five burghers of the Orange Free State for illicit sale of guns, ammunition, and brandy to Basuto, and these persons were prosecuted by their Government in the Orange Free State Courts and convicted of smuggling.

Government buildings are in good repair.

Religious and educational work continues under direction of branches of the various mission societies, of which there are three in this district—viz., Church of England, Paris Evangelical, and Roman Catholic.

I submit the Medical Officer's report on the health of the district. There has been no serious epidemic during the past year.

The public roads were kept in a fair state of repair.

BASUTOLAND 1896-7.

Owing to rinderpest quarantine restrictions in the Orange Free State and other territories, fewer natives went out to work at the great mining centres than in previous years.

I append a table showing the number of Passes issued to natives to leave Basutoland :—

Seeking employment	1,628
Other purposes	3,177
Total ...	4,805

The Revenue collected was :—

	£	s.	d.
Hut Tax	3,883	0	0
Licences	250	0	0
Fines	56	8	6
Fees of court or office ...	6	11	6
Miscellaneous	193	16	3
Total ...	£4,389	16	3

Number of huts on which tax was paid 7,493.

Arrear Hut Tax collected £136 10*s*.

T. P. KENNAN,
Assistant Commissioner.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1896-7.

MOHALE'S HOEK DISTRICT.

I would refer to several matters of importance that have occurred in the district since my last annual report.

In July last a good deal of trouble was caused owing to the illicit introduction of liquor into the Baphuti ward from Lady Grey. There is no doubt that the young chief Griffith Lerothodi and Mocheko Letuka, chief of the ward, were both more or less implicated in these nefarious dealings, though no actual proof could be brought against them, owing to the loyalty of their subjects. Several convictions were obtained which in a good measure put a stop to the evil.

About this time some trouble was caused by the Chief Malebanye, who attempted encroachment upon the Government

Reserve, which had hitherto been undisputed ; he caused several patches of ground to be ploughed on the Reserve grazing lands and, when remonstrated with, denied that the pieces of ground belonged to the Reserve. This matter was officially reported, and in August the Paramount Chief sent Setha Matete and other representatives, who, together with myself and Sub-Inspector Mansel, speedily adjusted the matter, and, by specific orders of the Resident Commissioner, caused proper beacons to be erected, and all encroaching gardens recently ploughed were condemned.

In this month a fight took place between Smith Poshudi and his brother Maphakela over some disputed gardens. No very serious damage was done, and the matter was settled by Setha Matete, who was sent by the Paramount Chief.

Fine rains fell during the month of August and ploughing was proceeded with by the natives.

In September the Acting Resident Commissioner called all officers and invited all traders to a conference to be held at Maseru, to consider the best means to be adopted for effectually guarding the territory against rinderpest, which was rapidly approaching from the north-west. The meeting was representative, being well attended from all districts ; the precautionary measures proposed and afterwards adopted are well known.

In October the Basutoland-Free State border was closed against all traffic, excepting certain ports of entry under fumigating regulations, and though some hesitation was shown by some of the chiefs, instructions were carried out most admirably, much to the credit of both our police and the natives.

In November the usual shout for the collection of Hut Tax was made, and promised well at the beginning, but when I started with the Baphuti, at Mekaling, I was seriously thwarted by the action of Griffith Lerothodi, who placed every obstacle in my way because I had sent to Mocheko as principal chief, and not to him. I reported his conduct to the Resident Commissioner, who happened to be in the district at the time inspecting rinderpest regulations. He ordered me to send at once to inform Griffith of his disapproval of his conduct, that he is not the chief, and must not in any way interfere with the work of the district. This message had the desired effect, as Griffith at once climbed down, apologised, and promised better behaviour.

In December a good deal of excitement was caused by Griffith placing a body of armed men professedly to guard Pathlalla Drift. I rode down and dispersed these men, who had no recognised leader, Griffith purposely avoided a meeting with me. On my return I reported the matter. On the 9th the

BASUTOLAND 1896–7.

Resident Commissioner, on his way to Qacha's Nek, ordered Ntoane to see that no armed men were allowed near the border, as all quarantine regulations would be carried out by officers in command of districts, and did not require interference from Griffith.

On the 18th a Vigilance Committee was appointed to watch the district and report on any sickness that might appear, also to quarantine any suspicious locality, temporarily, if necessary.

In January, heavy rains fell throughout the district, the Cornet Spruit overflowed its banks and a good deal of damage was done by the flood.

On the 15th I received a wire from the Resident Commissioner, sent at the request of the Paramount Chief, asking me to have no communication with his sons, who had behaved in a most disorderly and disrespectful manner at a Pitso held at Maseru. The conduct of the sons of Lerothodi caused considerable excitement throughout the district.

At the end of this month the five mile zone from the Orange Free State border was limited to a thousand yards. Personally I was much against this as we were at the time so seriously menaced by the disease being so near our border.

On the 3rd March I received a letter (express) from the Assistant-Commissioner of Mafeteng informing me that a disease resembling rinderpest had been reported from Sephapho's in this district. I started next morning and met the Assistant-Commissioner Mafeteng, with Mr. Scott of Mafeteng, at Sephapho's. The disease proved to be rinderpest and a quarantine was immediately placed around the infected area. We found 6 head of cattle dead and a large number sick.

The disease spread rapidly in spite of stringent quarantine precautions, and on the 24th a rinderpest camp was formed near the line between Mafeteng and Mohale's Hoek Districts (in the former) for the purpose of trying Dr. Koch's inoculation remedy. The Resident Commissioner personally started the work with two Veterinary Surgeons, Messrs. Robertson and Armstrong, remaining a week in camp until the work was fairly started. He then instructed Mr. Kennan and myself to carry on the work as rapidly and as cautiously as possible.

Some reluctance and a good deal of superstition was at first shown by the natives regarding inoculation, but results soon dispelled this, and inoculation proceeded rapidly and was much in demand.

In the beginning of May, Mr. Kennan and I found that, in consequence of the spread of the disease in the Mafeteng District, it was necessary to form separate camps. Mr. Kennan

and Mr. Robertson left for Mafeteng to form a separate work, whilst Mr. Armstrong and myself remained and carried on the work in this district.

On the 11th I met the Resident Commissioner by appointment at Tsolane and he decided that Mr. Armstrong should proceed and commence work in Quthing, where the disease had broken out, and on the 13th Mr. Armstrong left me.

I was kept very busy up to the 30th, when I moved to Mohale's Hoek side of the Cornet Spruit, after which the desire for inoculation ceased in spite of the continued good results, and no continuous work has since been done, and it is only now that a reaction appears to be setting in, Griffith has applied for it, and informs me that the desire in his neighbourhood is in favour of inoculation.

My relations with adjacent States are most satisfactory.

With exception of cases mentioned in paragraph 1 of this report, illicit traffic has greatly diminished, this may be and probably is owing in a great measure to the fact of the border being so long closed.

The following will show patrols performed in the district during the past year :—

Number of Patrols	167
Number of Men employed	410
Estimated distance travelled, miles ...	18,302
Arrests for Liquor Laws	6
Arrests for Pass Laws	16
Arrests for other offences	39

Return of lost and stolen stock from neighbouring States and territories :—

Stock.	Reported.	Not Traced.	Traced.	Recovered.	Not Recovered.
Horses ...	3	—	3	3	—
Cattle ...	14	8	6	6	8
Sheep ...	79	57	22	22	57

Return of Licences :—

General Traders	13
Hawkers Paid	1
Hawkers Free	2
Dam Licences	2

BASUTOLAND. 1896–7.

The Schools in the district were not inspected this year owing to the strict Rinderpest Quarantine Regulations.

The following are the criminal cases tried in my Court during the year :—

Assault	3
Theft	3
Contravening Customs Regulations ...	1
Contravening Rinderpest Regulations ...	16
Contravening Liquor Laws	4
Contravening Pass Laws	8

The following table shows the number of Passes issued during the year :—

For Labour	2,263
For other purposes	1,299
Total ...	3,562

Arrear Hut Tax collected amounts to £88 10*s*. Number of huts on which tax was paid 6,778.

Revenue Return.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Hut Tax	3,447	10	0
Licences	134	0	0
Fines and Ferry Tolls	90	16	6
Fees of court or office ...	2	17	6
Miscellaneous	99	11	3
Total ...	£3,774	15	3

The above table shows a falling off of £178 3*s*. 10*d*., for which the Baposhudi and Baphuti are mostly responsible.

The following are the ruling prices for Basutoland stock and produce :—

Cattle	50*s*.
Ponies	140*s*.
Sheep	14*s*.
Goats	12*s*.
Wheat	15*s*.
Mealies	6*s*.
Kaffir Corn	8*s*.
Oats	11*s*.
Barley	9*s*.

J. W. BOWKER,
Assistant Commissioner.

ANNUAL REPORT 1896-7.

QUTHING DISTRICT.

1. The peace of the district has been undisturbed during the past year in spite of excitement caused by the unruly conduct of the sons of the Paramount Chief in calling out assemblies of armed men in adjoining districts, which conduct at one time appeared likely to lead to complications with the Cape Colony.

It is perhaps worthy of note that, although the inhabitants of Quthing were in no wise concerned or mixed up in these demonstrations, they were called upon by the Paramount Chief to assist in paying the fine of Makhaola, one of the young chiefs in question. This is a growing practice among the chiefs of the country, and they usually contrive to collect considerably more from their people than is sufficient for the purpose specified.

2. Some attempt has recently been made by the chief of this district, Nkwebe Letsie, to arrange the difference between the Tembu chiefs, sons of Tyali; to which matters reference has been made in former reports. The Chief Tyali, the head of this clan of the Tembu nation, died on the 28th October, 1896, and his eldest son, Stock Tyali, has now charge of the clan,—the "Ama-vundhle."

3. The fencing off of South Basutoland from the Cape Colony, which was undertaken this year, caused some excitement among the natives, some of whom imagined that this was a preliminary to re-annexation by the Cape Colony; in support of which idea they quoted Pondoland as an instance of a country which was first fenced off, and then annexed. In order to dispel suspicion in the native mind, that the fence would encroach on their pasturage along the border, it was found expedient to send a mixed Commission of officials and natives to verify the whole of the Basutoland-East Griqualand border, in company with a Commission appointed by the East Griqualand Government. Similar action was taken with part of the Herschel border, in the upper part of the Telle valley. The Basuto chief of this district took advantage of the latter Commission to renew a claim which had been previously made (and disallowed) to some debateable land near the sources of the Telle River. The advancing of this claim led to an absurd rumour that the Basuto were about to destroy the border fence at this point, but enquiry proved that there was no foundation for the report.

4. Liquor smuggling is still carried on to some extent in spite of all precautions to check it. The facilities which unfortunately exist for the purchase of brandy by natives in neighbouring villages of the Cape Colony offer temptation to liquor runners

from Basutoland to bring it over either for sale or for the chiefs' consumption.

5. A regretable case of suicide, which took place in September, 1896, was found on enquiry to be traceable to the still prevalent belief in witchcraft. The victim, a Tembu woman, threw herself over a high cliff, with her infant child, her mind having become unhinged, from repeated accusations of witchcraft brought against her by her husband's relatives.

6. A practice which requires to be checked is that of extorting evidence or confession of guilt from prisoners by means of torture. There is reason to believe that this method is at times resorted to by the chiefs, when they are desirous of bringing home certain charges to particular persons, and when other means fail. It is important that such a custom should be firmly put down, as, if allowed to exist as a recognised means of obtaining so called "evidence," its possibilities are boundless.

Relations with Bordering States.

1. Cordial intercourse has been maintained with the adjacent territory of East Griqualand, and measures such as the preliminary survey of the boundary and the construction of the border fence were undertaken by the East Griqualand authorities in consultation with the Basutoland Government. 2. Unfortunately this precaution was not taken by the Public Works Department of the Cape Colony when constructing the Barkly East border fence; and in consequence the true boundary has been overstepped in various places to a considerable extent, not, as a rule, to the advantage of this territory.

Agricultural.

1. The year has been an unfortunate one for agriculturists, the first half, from July to December, 1896, being marked by serious scarcity of food among the natives, some of the Tembus especially being reduced to great straits, and the applications to the officials for relief were numerous. The present season's crops both of maize and Kaffir corn, appear to be plentiful.

2. Early in May, 1897, rinderpest was found to have broken out in this district near the Orange River and on the Herschel border. The disease had appeared in Herschel and in the adjacent district of Mohale's Hoek some weeks previously, and although attempts were made to check the removal of stock, &c., they were only temporarily successful, owing to the restless habits of natives, and their natural desire to remove their cattle from the neighbourhood of infection. Inoculation was commenced in the district during May, but after some few thousand were done there was a reaction against the process, and the Basuto preferred

to try certain native remedies, which do not appear to have been attended with good results. During the past week there have been indications of a renewed desire for inoculation.

3. Ploughing operations have commenced early and some of the young wheat looks well. Locusts have not appeared in the district in any numbers during the past year. Horses, sheep, and goats appear to be doing well, although during the summer and autumn some horses died of biliary fever.

Public Works.

1. The main roads are, for the present, in passable order, temporary repairs having been effected. The present contractor has had a hard task with them, owing to the heavy rains in December, 1896, which caused numerous landslips and falls of rock blocking the track. The section of road over Mokochomela Pass, towards Ongeluk's Nek, in the Drakensberg, is now almost impassable for horses, and in parts can only be safely traversed on foot.

2. The improved supply of water furnished by the waterworks at Moyeni appears to have favourably affected the health of the police camp, there having been no cases of typhoid fever there this year. It may become necessary at some future time to employ skilled workmen to refit the pipes, the present service having been laid down by convict labour, and lacking the finish shown in similar works elsewhere in the territory.

3. The whole of the border from the Orange River up the Telle River to its source in the Drakensberg, and thence along the range to the Natal border has been fenced off during the year. This has chiefly been done by the Cape Government as a measure for checking the spread of rinderpest, but the Basuto-land-Barkly East section was constructed in pursuance of an arrangement between the respective Governments to share the cost.

Crime and Police.

Certain forms of crime appear to be on the increase, notably shopbreaking, of which a number of cases have occurred during the period under review, the perpetrators of which have so far escaped justice. Much additional work has been thrown on the police in consequence of the spread of rinderpest in the territory, and the force generally has performed its various duties well.

Medical.

There has been no Medical Officer stationed in Quthing for the past six months, and no Medical Report can be furnished.

BASUTOLAND 1896-7.

Trade.

As already stated trade has been seriously interfered with during the last nine months, and the local traders have experienced considerable losses.

Number of Licences issued :—

General traders	15
Paid hawkers	3
Free hawkers	11

Current prices of produce and stock :—

Wheat	20*s.* per bag.
Mealies	5*s.* to 7*s.* „
Kaffir corn	10*s.* „
Horses	£5 to £15 each.
Cattle	£2 to £6 „
Sheep	10*s.* „
Goats	7*s.* „
Wool	3*d.* per lb.
Mohair	9*d.* „
Forage	£1 per 100 bundles.

Revenue.

The following is the Revenue collected during the year :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Hut Tax	2,326	0	0
Licences	386	11	6
Fees of court or office ...	5	2	6
Miscellaneous	88	5	9
Total ...	£2,805	19	9

Number of huts on which Tax was paid 4,667.

Arrear Tax amounting to £18 10*s.* was collected.

Return of lost stock :—

Stock.	Reported.	Traced.	Not Traced.	Recovered.	Not Recovered.
Horses ...	6	5	1	5	1
Cattle ...	5	—	5	—	5

The following is a return of Passes issued :—

Seeking employment	1,328
Other purposes...	1,752
Total ...	3,080

The civil and criminal cases tried during the year are as follows :—

Civil cases	5
Assault	2
Theft	5
Contravening Trading Laws	6
Contravening Liquor Laws	13
Contravening Pass Laws	16
Contravening Rinderpest Laws ...	8
Resisting Police	4
Escaping from custody	2
Rape	3

The following is a return of patrols :—

Number of patrols	215
Number of men engaged	272
Estimated distance travelled	7,371 miles.
Arrests for Liquor Laws	9
Arrests for Pass Laws	7
Arrests for other offences	10

S. BARRETT,
Assistant Commissioner.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1896-7.

QACHA'S NEK DISTRICT.

During the latter part of the year 1896 the inhabitants of this district were, in common with the rest of Basutoland, much disturbed by the many absurd rumours, the outcome of their own ignorant and prejudiced imaginations, which were set afloat upon the adoption of quarantine regulations in the endeavour to arrest the advance of rinderpest. In December, when the Cape Government began to fence and guard the East Griqualand-Basutoland border, the people took alarm and Chief Makhaola, son of the Paramount Chief, placed large bodies of armed men upon the border in defiance of orders. These men obstructed and stopped the work of fencing; adopted a most aggressive and

BASUTOLAND 1896-7.

threatening demeanour towards the Cape guards, in some cases driving them from their posts; and insulted and stopped the officers in charge when on patrol. An officer of this Government—the officer in charge at Qacha's Nek—was also subjected to insult and forcibly deterred from communicating with the Resident Magistrate of Matatiele, then on the border, and all traffic stopped.

Affairs reached a very grave crisis; the families in East Griqualand flew into laager; and a rebellious uprising of a section of the younger generation of Basuto led by certain irresponsible chiefs, who were strongly suspected of conspiring to this end with a discontented division of the Hlangweni tribe living in East Griqualand was momentarily expected. Happily a collision was averted by the great tact and forbearance displayed by the gentlemen in charge of the guards.

The Resident Commissioner, on receipt of despatches indicating the state of affairs, travelled by forced marches through the mountains, arriving on the scene on December 12th, accompanied by the Assistant Commissioner of Quthing and representative chiefs.

A meeting was at once called and the parties guilty of rioting punished by imprisonment and fine, and the Chief Makhaola withdrawn from the district.

The result of this prompt action has been to secure perfect quiet and peace throughout this district.

A commission consisting of the Assistant Commissioner of Quthing and the Resident Magistrate of Matatiele was appointed to define the boundary for the erection of the wire fence, which has since been completed without any interference.

Trade has naturally been much affected by the quarantine regulations and large quantities of produce are held against the re-establishment of traffic.

The Police detachment at this station is efficient. The following is the result of patrols performed during the twelve months :—

Number of patrols	77
Number of men engaged	92
Estimated distance travelled	7,472 miles
Arrests for Pass Laws	2
Arrests for other offences	3

During the year no civil cases have been heard in this Court. The following is a list of criminal cases tried :—

Theft	7
Contravening Pass Laws	5
Assault	5

A return of lost or stolen stock is given hereunder with results of search made by Police. It is hoped that the fencing of the border will reduce thieving to a minimum, if not stop it wholly.

Stock.	Reported.	Traced.	Not Traced.	Re-covered.	Not re-covered.	Remarks.
Horses ...	18	—	10	8	10	
Cattle ...	17	—	17	—	17	
Sheep ...	3	—	1	2	1	
Goats ...	146	—	146	—	146	

The Revenue of the district shows a slight increase over that of last year as regards Hut Tax and is as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Hut Tax	1,232	0	0
Licences...	20	0	0
Fines	2	17	6
Fees	0	2	6
Miscellaneous	3	18	6
Total	£1,258	18	6

Of the Hut Tax the sum of £27 10*s.* represents arrears. The number of huts on which Tax was paid is 2,434.

Very few men have left the district for the purpose of working during the year—probably owing to the restrictions placed upon the movement of natives by the neighbouring territories, owing to the fear of rinderpest. The following passes have been issued :—

Seeking employment	408
Other purposes	1,940
Total	2,348

The maize and Kaffir corn crops have been excellent.

The rinderpest has not, up to date, broken out in this district.

F. ENRAGHT-MOONY,
Assistant Commissioner.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1896-7.

SUB-DISTRICT BUTHA BUTHE.

I returned from the Berea District and took over from Mr. Cartwright on the 5th February, 1897.

General.

The state of the ward during the last twelve months has, on the whole, been quiet. There has been a good deal of friction in Letsika's ward which only stopped short of serious fighting. This was chiefly caused by the fact that no one loyally recognised the boundaries made last year by Jonathan Molapo. It is possible that this matter may before long be on a better footing. There has also been great friction between Joel Molapo and his younger brother Hlasoa, which has been going on for the last two years and I see little hope of a speedy end to it. On the 14th May I held a Pitso here, at which Joel and Hlasoa were present, in the hopes of being able to bring about a better understanding between the two brothers, but I fear no good results have followed.

Joel last year granted a considerable addition to the Reserve at this station to be handed over as soon as the crops have all been reaped.

So far, I am glad to say, no case of rinderpest has been reported in this ward.

Revenue.

The amount of Hut Tax has again been in excess of that of any previous year. So also has been the total Revenue :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Hut Tax	1,605	10	0
Licences	149	15	6
Fees	0	5	0
Miscellaneous	19	6	6
Total	£1,774	17	0

Number of huts on which Tax was paid 3,039. Arrear Hut Tax collected amounted to £138.

Licences.

The following Licences were issued during the year :—

General traders	12
Paid hawkers	15
Free hawkers	2

Lost Stock.

I subjoin a return showing the number of lost or stolen stock reported at this office during the year. I have not been able to ascertain whether any of those not traced to Basutoland were subsequently recovered elsewhere :—

Stock.	Reported.	Traced.	Not Traced.	Recovered.	Not Recovered.	Remarks.
Horses	10	7	3	7	3	
Cattle	3	—	3	—	3	

The following cases were heard in my Court during the year :—

Sodomy	1
Theft	4
Assault	2
Contravening Rinderpest Laws	1
Minor offences	37
Civil cases	2

Very few passes have been issued during the year :—

Seeking employment	565
Other purposes...	2,429
Total	2,994

During the grain season the prices given were about as follows :—

Wheat	18*s.* to 20*s.* per muid.
Mealies	7*s.* per muid.
Kaffir corn	7*s.* „
Horses	£5 to £8 each.
Wool	1*d.* per lb.
Mohair	3*d.* „
Forage	20*s.* per 100 bundles.

Cattle not bought to any extent.

There are at present four schools in this ward receiving Government aid, one is under the Church of England and the others under the French Protestant Mission.

BASUTOLAND 1896-7.

The roads in the ward are now in very good order. Patrols performed by the police are as under :—

Number of patrols	91
Number of men engaged	147
Estimated distance travelled, miles ...	4,191
Arrests for Liquor Laws	6
Arrests for Pass Laws	12
Arrests for other offences	1

W. BOXWELL,
Sub-Inspector B.M.P.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1896-7.

PRINCIPAL MEDICAL OFFICER.

Public Health.

Epidemic diseases.—The most satisfactory feature of the past year is the entire freedom from small-pox in the territory. With three-fourths of the inhabitants rendered immune by vaccination, the disease is not likely ever to be such a source of anxiety to the authorities as heretofore.

Typhoid fever, which in previous years has generally been conspicuous by its absence, has during the past year been epidemic in the Maseru, Mohale's Hoek, Berea, and Leribe Districts. The simultaneous appearance of typhoid in so many centres is probably due to the introduction of the disease by natives returning home from Johannesburg and other towns where typhoid has been unusually prevalent. This means of introduction was observed here in Maseru on more than one occasion when men returning from the gold fields attended as out-patients with well marked symptoms of typhoid.

These patients invariably insisted on proceeding to their homes no matter how ill they might be. Fortunately, enteric fever in this country is seldom the serious disease that it is commonly and justly held to be. Here it, in common with some other zymotic diseases, would appear to be greatly modified by climatic conditions. It is the exception to see well-marked enteric symptoms, while many cases simulate malarial fever. There is a well-marked tendency for the attacks to abate on or about the tenth day. The sequelæ are few and insignificant, and recovery is usually rapid and complete. At

the same time, during the recent epidemics there were a sufficient number of severe cases which presented all the classical symptoms of the disease to place the diagnosis beyond doubt. There are still a few sporadic cases cropping up from time to time in the Maseru Reserve, and there is a serious epidemic at Marthinis' village in the Berea District. The presence of so many foci of disease in this country is a most unfortunate circumstance, since the habits of the people are eminently calculated to foster the spread of such a disease as typhoid.

Scurvy.—So seldom is land scurvy observed that the presence of the cases in this country merits a short comment. For some years the medical men in Basutoland have noticed and commented on the occasional presence of symptoms suggestive of scurvy among many of the out-patients, but it was only in the summer of 1896 that undoubted cases of scurvy have come under treatment. The most prominent symptoms were marked anæmia, emaciation, dry skin, and swollen spongy gums, which bled freely at times. In no instance were petechiæ or ecchymoses of the extremities observed, but œdema of the feet and legs was not uncommon. A symptom universally complained of was great aching of the feet and legs; the characteristic foul breath of scurvy was invariably present.

Ophthalmia.—A particularly virulent type of this disease was prevalent throughout the country during the summer months. Usually a comparatively insignificant complaint, the type of disease as observed here last year resembled Egyptian ophthalmia. Europeans were usually prone to the disease, but it was only in natives who neglected to carry out the necessary treatment that any serious lesion was observed. The exceptionally dry and dusty season was probably in part responsible for its wide spread.

No other epidemic calls for particular mention. I would, however, like to call the attention of the Government to the, at first sight, extraordinary frequence of neurasthenic symptoms among the European population. That such should occur in a climate which is justly held to be in high repute may at first sight appear somewhat anomalous. It is, however, capable of a simple and satisfactory explanation, There are three main factors in determining this condition of neurasthenia, two of which are due to climatic and the third to social conditions. The first two are the high altitude of the country and the extreme daily range of temperature. Both of these conditions make large demands on the store of nervous energy. We thus have a condition in which the nervous system has to supply this extra energy in addition to that usually expended by the body under more favourable conditions of existence. The third factor which I referred to as a social one has reference to the isolated life which Europeans necessarily lead in a barbarous State, a life which in

its effect on the nervous system is but a trifle less injurious than the opposite extreme which characterises modern life in European centres.

Syphilis.—As anticipated in my report last year, this disease bulks largely in the annual returns. So long, however, as the inhabitants continue to hold syphilis in the same light estimation that the average European does a simple catarrh, no noticeable diminution in the spread of this disease is to be hoped for.

Leprosy.—The satisfactory condition of affairs in regard to this disease mentioned in my last report is maintained.

Police.—The health of the police force throughout the country has been excellent.

Hospital and Dispensary Work.

The attendances have maintained the high average which was characteristic of last year, in spite of the inconveniences attending travel owing to the Rinderpest Regulations which have been in force. The Maseru Hospital had to be closed in March owing to an outbreak of typhoid fever among the in-patients. The buildings are now put in a more efficient state, which, together with the operating room which is being built in commemoration of Her Majesty's Jubilee, will considerably enhance the usefulness of the institution. The great need of nursing help is keenly felt. It is an impossibility to maintain wards in an aseptic condition without.

Appended are the usual tables showing the attendances at the different stations during the past year, and a comparison with the previous year.

District.	New Cases.		Subsequent Attendances.		In-Patients.		Totals.	
	1895–6	1896–7	1895–6	1896–7	1895–6	1896–7	1895–6	1896–7
Quthing ...	820	—	354	—	—	—	1,174	—
Mohale's Hoek	1,576	1,469	346	292	34	25	1,956	1,786
Mafeteng ...	1,842	4,046	630	816	35	52	2,507	4,914
Maseru ...	2,642	2,856	1,175	2,087	86	86	3,903	4,943
Leribe ...	2,710	2,040	356	304	63	60	3,129	2,404
	9,590	10,411	2,861	3,499	218	223	12,669	14,047

EDW. C. LONG,
Principal Medical Officer.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1896-7.

MEDICAL OFFICER, LERIBE.

The following table gives the number of attendances at the Dispensary and Hospital, including the vaccinations performed during the year.

New cases	2,040
Subsequent attendances	304
Hospital in-patients	60
Vaccinations	1,150
Total	3,554

General Summary.

Owing to the restrictions placed on natives travelling in the neighbouring territories on account of rinderpest, the returns for vaccination show a great decrease, otherwise the attendance at the Dispensary and Hospital has been well maintained.

Syphilis and gastric complaints as in previous years are still numerous. Of the former 510 or 25 per cent. of the new cases were syphilitic. It is gratifying to note that the disease is not of a serious type. Bronchial catarrh has been prevalent in the camp during the winter months, and it has been observed that the natives who wear European clothing are especially liable to it.

Fifteen cases of epilepsy appeared at the Dispensary during the year. With two exceptions all the cases were in adults, and they attributed the disease to blows on the head. Children also suffer, and from time to time cases come under my notice. The people themselves say that this disease is increasing, as is likewise lunacy. Five cases of the latter were brought to the Hospital during the year, and there are many more cases in the district for whom advice is not sought.

Sixty patients were treated (mostly surgically) in the Hospital and there were 4 deaths, 1 each from phthisis, cirrhosis of liver, chronic articular rheumatism with senility, and erysipelas.

Epidemics.—There was a severe epidemic of measles in the camp during October and November, but no deaths were reported.

During the summer months ophthalmia appeared all over the district and many of the cases were of a severe nature, especially

BASUTOLAND 1896–7.

in children, and owing to the carelessness of the parents, who let the disease run too far before seeking advice, many of them lost their sight or were partially blinded.

Five cases of typhoid fever were seen in February at the village of Khetisa. The village was cleaned and the refuse burnt, and one polluted fountain was filled up. Sporadic cases were reported from time to time from various parts of the district.

As a rule the majority of native villages are dirty and the fountains from which drinking water is drawn are below the village and liable to pollution from the filth above. I have examined many of these fountains and there seems to be no attempt made to keep them clean. Unless attention is paid to this and to the cleanliness of the villages, I fear that typhoid fever will become a scourge in the country.

The health of the police and the prisoners has been good.

Sanitary.—As regards sanitary matters the condition of the camp calls for no special mention. At Butha Buthe camp diarrhœa is endemic during the summer; although the fountains there have been cleansed and other sanitary measures taken, the disease still exists. The police children are the greatest sufferers and it may be that their food is the cause.

NEIL M. MACFARLANE, M.D.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1896–7.

MEDICAL OFFICER, MAFETENG.

I have the honour to submit the following report on the medical work done in the Mafeteng District during the past year. The number of out-patients attending at the Dispensary during the past year has been 4,046. Of these 3,081 were females, 965 were males. Subsequent attendance for repeats were 816.

Dyspepsia is by far the most common malady complained of.

Syphilis is also common. Amongst the above number of cases no less than 411 were syphilitic either in the acquired or congenital form. In nearly all the cases the disease has apparently

been neglected before the tertiary stage is reached. The commonest places in the above cases for its manifestation is on the palate and tonsils.

Several cases of early leprosy have come up for treatment lately.

The number of in-patients treated at the Hospital has been 52; of these 40 were surgical and 12 medical cases.

There have been four deaths.

The sanitary condition of the station appears to be excellent.

In the early part of the year whooping cough was prevalent in the camp, and during the middle and latter parts of the year there has been a severe epidemic of chicken-pox, affecting the children and also the young adults, especially between 18 and 25 years of age.

In the early part of the year vaccination certificates were much in request; but of late, owing to Rinderpest Regulations in the Free State, very few have been required.

The health of the police detachment has been good, though gonorrhœa has been fairly prevalent amongst them.

A. LISLE WEBB,
Medical Officer,
Mafeteng.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1896-7.

MEDICAL OFFICER, MOHALE'S HOEK.

Owing to my having arrived here to take temporary charge during the absence on leave of Dr. Eaton, my report must necessarily be short and lacking in particulars.

As far as I can gather the public health has been good, there being no outbreaks of acute specific diseases of a serious nature. During the spring and early summer there were a few mild cases of influenza and whooping cough.

The eating of rinderpest meat has not, as far as I am aware, caused the consumer any particular discomfort and certainly up to the present any death-dealing malady.

BASUTOLAND 1896–7.

The police detachment has enjoyed good health notwithstanding the effects of extra work during the last few months.

The water supply is a decided improvement on the old system and a great safeguard as regards disease, a plentiful supply being forthcoming for all purposes. It would be a great convenience if it could be laid on to the Hospital and Dispensary, and I do not think the cost would be very much.

The attendance at the public Dispensary has shown a slight decline as compared with last year, viz. :—1,761 as compared with 1,922 for 1895-6. Of these 1,469 were new cases and 292 subsequent attendances.

There were only 1,171 Vaccination Certificates issued as compared with 3,995 for the previous twelve months.

There were 25 cases admitted into the Hospital, most of which were severe cases of syphilis, and of which two died and the remainder were either cured or greatly benefitted.

W. R. NATTLE.
Medical Officer.

APPENDIX.

GOVERNOR SIR ALFRED MILNER to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Cape Town,
1st October, 1897.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your information, a copy of a despatch from the Acting Resident Commissioner of Basutoland reporting on the work of Education in that Territory for the year to 30th June last.

This report appears to me to show that, considering the difficulty under which it has been carried on, this work has shown satisfactory progress during the year.

I have, &c.,
A. MILNER,
Governor and High Commissioner.

From the ACTING RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, Basutoland, to the HIGH COMMISSIONER, Cape Town.

Resident Commissioner's Office,
Basutoland,
21st September, 1897.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit Your Excellency comparative Education Returns for the year ended 30th June, 1897. It will be observed that there were 153 schools and institutions receiving

BASUTOLAND 1896–7.

Government aid, 8,458 on the school books, and a mean average attendance of 5,827.

Although the nominal roll and mean average attendance reveal satisfactory increases, it can hardly be expected that a year shadowed, as it was, by rinderpest should show much educational progress. The whole country was more or less under quarantine at different times, and no doubt the mortality of cattle depressed the children as well as their parents.

Assistant Commissioners, who are responsible for school inspections, were engaged continually for some months carrying on or superintending inoculation and have not yet been able to complete their inspection reports. From those before me and other investigations, I gather that, in spite of certain heathen opposition, most of the chiefs are desirous of supporting their district schools and of co-operating with the Missionaries who direct them.

My despatch of the 15th February, 1895, dealt with the educational system obtaining. In a further report of the 29th June, 1895, some interesting information was furnished regarding the opinion of Missionaries as to the effect education for past years had apparently produced upon the people.

Our Industrial schools in Basutoland continue to carry on a useful work.

That at Quthing, controlled by the French Protestants, supports 40 lads who are trained in building, carpentering, stone-cutting, blacksmithing, and wagon-building. A few are passed out fairly qualified every year, and turn their attention to wage earning in Basutoland or the neighbouring territories. They are often to be seen employed on independent jobs and their handiwork is to be frequently traced in decently constructed village houses.

The Industrial Institution at Roma embraces a wider area of technical instruction. In addition to the trades above mentioned, about 30 boys are taught turnery, shoemaking, saddlery, tanning, and tailoring.

There is also a Printing School at Morija and a Girls' Industrial School at Thaba Bosigo.

With the exception of a thoroughly well conducted higher school of the French Protestants at Morija, a fourth standard school of the Roman Catholics at Roma, and a small training college of the English Church in Leribe, the scale of teaching is generally rudimentary and suitable to the age and capacity of the children.

Reports of Basuto lads at Lovedale learning trades, at Zonnebloem and Grahamstown, are satisfactory.

In my annual report of last year I alluded to the fact that a sum of £3,184 had been publicly subscribed by the nation at the instance of the Paramount Chief for the purpose of building an Industrial Institution.

In reply to the request for further industrial training, I replied that if the people really desired it they should provide means and make it their own work, in the direction of which Government would gladly co-operate and guide. The sum named is placed on fixed deposit until such time as additional promised subscriptions are paid and some form of endowment is guaranteed by those interested.

I have, etc.,

G. Y. LAGDEN,
Acting Resident Commissioner.

His Excellency the High Commissioner, etc.,
South Africa.

BASUTOLAND 1896-7.

BASUTOLAND.

Comparative Return of Schools in Basutoland.

1895 and 1896.

Mission.	1895–6.			1896–7.		
	Number of Schools.	Number of Scholars on Books.	Mean Average attendance.	Number of Schools.	Number of Scholars on Books.	Mean Average Attendance.
Paris E. M. Society	115	6,815	4,612	121	7,195	4,878
Institutions ...	5	—	—	5	—	—
Roman Catholics	8	413	322	11	473	395
English Church...	11	546	387	11	609	437
Undenominational	2	87	65	2	70	54
Night Schools ...	3	47	21	3	91	43
Training Institutions (Foreign)	—	22	20	—	20	20
	144	7,930	5,427	153	8,458	5,827

Expenditure on Education.

1895–6.	1896–7.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.
3,869 4 7	3,810 4 7

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 226.

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.

ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 1896-7.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
April 1898.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 1-3, Great St. Thomas Apostle, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, Hanover Street, Edinburgh, and
90, West Nile Street, Glasgow; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., Limited, 104, Grafton Street, Dublin.

1898.

[C.—8650-24.] *Price* 2½*d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No	Colony.	Year.
193	Bahamas	1896
194	Zululand	„
195	Gambia	„
196	Malta	„
197	British New Guinea	1895–96
198	Turks and Caicos Islands	1896
199	Barbados	„
200	Leeward Islands	1895
201	Trinidad and Tobago	1896
202	Gibraltar	„
203	Fiji (Trade)	„
204	Straits Settlements	1895
205	Do. do.	1896
206	Falkland Islands	„
207	British Honduras	„
208	Sierra Leone	„
209	Grenada	„
210	Hong Kong	„
211	St. Lucia	„
212	St. Vincent	„
213	St. Helena	„
214	Seychelles	„
215	Mauritius	„
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands	1897
217	Fiji	1896
218	Ceylon	„
219	Lagos	„
220	Gold Coast	„
221	Labuan	1896
222	British Guiana	1896–97
223	Rodrigues	1896
224	Basutoland	1896–97

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.

No. 226.

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.

HIGH COMMISSIONER SIR ALFRED MILNER TO MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Cape Town,

14th October, 1897.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your information, a copy of a letter from Mr. Newton enclosing Annual Reports for the Bechuanaland Protectorate for the year ended 31st March last.

I have, &c.,

A. MILNER,

Governor and High Commissioner.

FROM THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, MAFEKING, TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER, CAPE TOWN.

Mafeking,

31st August, 1897.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to enclose, for your Excellency's information, copies of the Annual Reports for the year ended the 31st March last, which I have received from the Assistant Commissioners of the Northern and Southern Protectorates, the Commandant of the Bechuanaland Protectorate Division of the British South Africa Police, and the Postmaster-General.

15225*—75—12/97 Wt 20613 D & S—5 (B)

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE. 1896–7.

The Reports of the two Assistant Commissioners tell the same tale of rinderpest, drought, scarcity, and sickness. The greatest of these afflictions has been the rinderpest.

The territory was attacked at very short notice by an almost unknown disease in its most virulent form, which took for its victims the staple product, the chief means of livelihood, an important item of the food supply, and the capital and the currency of the country. To what an extent cattle performed all these functions is perfectly familiar to residents in the North, and they can best realise what a paralysing blow has been dealt by the visitation. Acting under professional advice, the Government ordered the destruction of over ten thousand head of cattle in the course of a few weeks, in the hope of checking infection. This was effected almost without a murmur and without the slightest resistance, either from Europeans or natives, by a handful of police.

The rinderpest travelled through the country from north to south, at one time at the rate of 25 miles a day, and destroyed not less than 90 per cent.—at a low estimate—of the enormous heads of cattle within the Protectorate.

The failure of the crops for the second year in succession followed heavily on the rinderpest. As pointed out by Mr. Surmon and myself in previous correspondence, the distress was not so great as had been at first anticipated, for these reasons:—

1. The natives made "biltong" not only from the cattle which otherwise they would have lost from rinderpest, but also from those they had actually lost from the disease.

2. Their reserve of purchasing power in cash, or in produce other than large cattle, was greater than had been estimated.

It is satisfactory therefore to be able to report that, with the exception of small supplies of daily rations given here and there to destitute aged and sick persons, there has been no free grant of relief to natives generally, as was at first feared might be necessary; supplies of grain were laid down at suitable spots and retailed at a fixed and, as nearly as could be estimated, at cost price. The Government has, however, sustained some loss by expenses of transport, death of mules and depreciation of grain, which could not well be allowed for or avoided.*

A very welcome contribution from the London Relief Committee was devoted to the purchase and distribution of seed grain among the Bechuanas. This grain was sold at a nominal price to cover the cost of transport from the port or place of purchase.

To counterbalance these misfortunes, the construction of the Railway through the Territory has given most valuable aid

* *See infra* under Expenditure, item Native Relief.

both in furnishing a profitable field for labour and in forwarding food supplies. The work, begun in January, 1896, has proceeded swiftly and with little or no intermission from the Ramathlabana Spruit to the Ramaqueban River. As far as the Protectorate is concerned "*Finis coronat opus*," and European and native alike may now rest secure in their immunity from famine, or, at any rate, from famine prices. The actual work of construction has been of the greatest advantage to the country. The Bechuanas, a pastoral race, are not naturally good labourers—eight Colonial kaffirs carry a rail under which sixteen Bechuanas stagger ; there were also at the outset one or two unfortunate misunderstandings between sub-contractors and headmen as to wages. In time, however, the supply of labourers came in freely, and the natives of the country have not only learnt to work, but also to appreciate the very liberal rates of pay allowed by the contractors and those who work under them.

I take this opportunity of recording the courtesy and consideration which the officers of the Government have always received from the Messrs. Pauling, the contractors, and their employees, who have done their best throughout to assist in the maintenance of order and in the repression of the sale or gift of liquor to natives in their employ.

Throughout the whole of the native districts, there has been, in spite of the misfortunes already described, perfect peace. I must make one slight exception to this statement, viz., that of a small intertribal quarrel among the Bakwena, which arose in a great measure from the incompetence of the Paramount Chief Sebele to rule over his people. The matter in dispute has been for the time peacefully, if not finally, disposed of by the removal of Khari's sons and clan from Kolobeng to Monokwe.

The Report of the Commandant of Police furnishes returns in the usual form of work done during the year. The police duty during that period has been particularly arduous and, so far as individuals are concerned, has on the whole been well performed.

But the organization and working of the police leaves, in my opinion, some room for improvement. There has not been that cordial and active co-operation between the magisterial authority and the police which is necessary for the administration of justice and the maintenance of an effective police supervision in native districts. I ascribe this to a system and a sentiment which date from the time when the police were rather a military force, having its central camp at Makloutsi, than a genuine police force. What is now required is a body rather resembling the Cape police in its method of working ; whose members the local magisterial authority should be able to instruct and direct in all matters other than those of maintenance, equipment, and discipline.

Your Excellency will no doubt note the testimony borne by Mr. Surmon to the value of the services rendered by the new

Basuto police, which from personal knowledge I readily endorse. Our best thanks are due to Sir Godfrey Lagden, who selected the officers and men, and forwarded them from Basutoland, mounted, equipped, and ready for duty. The men enlisted are of an excellent stamp; active and willing, and for the most part discreet and intelligent: they are good riders and well mounted; and have managed to find their way about over a strange country with ease, and to make friends among a strange people whose language they have quickly acquired. There can be no question as to the loyalty of these Basuto, and I should be glad to see their sphere of usefulness extended so as to include the Northern Protectorate and Ngamiland. To thoroughly police the whole Protectorate will prove a heavy responsibility and expense, and to do so with efficiency and economy the European may in many places be replaced by the Basuto.

Throughout the year, a detachment of European police, commanded by an officer having magisterial powers, has been stationed in Ngamiland. Chiefly owing to inexperience and the difficulties of communication, no great progress was made in extending our influence or authority over the natives there. A fresh detachment has now been sent up under Lieutenant Scholefield, who is cordially co-operating with Major Lugard in his work of developing and opening up the country under the auspices of the British West Charterland Company.

I have the honour to enclose a statement of Revenue and Expenditure for the financial year ended 31st March, 1897.

REVENUE—£47,510.

The true Revenue of the Country, derived from Customs, Licences, Stamps, Posts, and Sundries, amounted to about £20,000.

The bulk of the items sales of Government Property and sundries, which together amount to £29,358, is derived from the sale of spare stores, camp equipments, &c. in excess of requirements, and from the sale of grain at approximately cost price for cash to natives.

As regards Posts, it must be borne in mind that though the Revenue under this head has practically equalled the expenditure, this has only been arrived at by the aid of an abnormally high postal rate for the Northern Territories and of a heavy transit rate secured to us on Matabeleland postage. Both of these sources of revenue will, I trust, shortly be curtailed. In fact, the railway will reduce both postal revenue and postal expenditure, to the very great advantage of the public.

Your Excellency will find in the very full report of the Postmaster General all information on this head.

EXPENDITURE—£88,448.

On the principal item, Police, £40,102, I have already made some remark.

The cost of maintenance of horses and mules was this year unusually heavy, owing to the high prices of forage and grain, and the scarcity of transport. The cost of the Ngamiland detachment and part of the cost of Major Goold Adams's expedition have also been a charge on the police vote.

The remaining ordinary items of expenditure, from "Pensions" to "Medical," call for no further remark.

BOUNDARY COMMISSION—£339.

This sum represents part of the cost of Major Goold Adams's journey through the Protectorate, where he was engaged in delimiting the boundaries of Bathoen, Sebele, and Linchwe, prior to his journey into the Northern Interior.

RINDERPEST—£4,707.

Expenditure to the foregoing amount was incurred in maintaining an extra force of special police, and also in burning or burying the thousands of carcases in the vicinity of the principal roads and rivers. Most of the chiefs and headmen in the Protectorate eventually gave active assistance in the destruction of carcases and kraals.

NATIVE RELIEF—£24,152.

The deficit in cash on this work amounted to £10,973 : as the sale of grain to natives realised £11,180 : and an amount of about £2000 was recovered through the Customs Union as revenue, for duty paid on the imported grain at the port. Against this deficit must be set off a useful stock of sixteen wagons and sets of harness and some fifty mules. The remainder of the mules (about 200) died in the course of the year. There was also a considerable balance of unsold grain in stock at Mafeking and Gaberones on the 31st March last ; while it should also be taken into calculation that a valuable amount of police transport work was incidentally performed by the Native Relief Transport Service which was in charge of the police. The work of relief, which consisted in the distribution and sale of grain, was performed without any substantive addition to the staff of the Protectorate. It involved the performance of a great deal of extra duty, which was cheerfully performed by those on whom it devolved, without any suggestion of extra pay. The supply of grain at cost price went far to relieve the want, which in some places amounted to distress, among the natives. Had the food requirements of the country been left to be supplied through the natural channels of trade, some traders would have made fortunes

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE. 1896–7.

and many natives would have starved. The sale of grain by the Government, which has so far fulfilled the purpose for which it was instituted, will be discontinued so soon as the prospects of a food supply are tolerably certain.

GENERAL.

The retrospect of such a year does not tempt one to prognosticate. It must be many years before the stock of cattle in the country can be raised to its normal strength. By that time sheep and goats may be found to be doing well in places where they would not otherwise have had a chance. But the best results may be safely anticipated from the making of the railway, the finest "improvement scheme" of any that can be devised for an undeveloped land. "Railroads are the very arteries which carry "the life blood of countries; without them the country languishes "and dies, with them it springs up again into healthy life." Without a railway the Protectorate would have remained in at least a state of suspended animation for many years to come.

The Northern extension undertaken by the Bechuanaland Railway Company has justified the enterprise of its promoters in the first year of its existence, and will be in time not only the vehicle for the local trade of the Eastern Valley of the Protectorate, but also the chief instrument whereby Northern and North Western Zambesia and the vast plains around Ghansi and the Western Kalahari will be opened up for development and occupation.

As regards the mineral wealth of the country, little can be said. The Tati Concessions Company are thoroughly prospecting the comparatively small strip of territory which they hold under their concession from Lobengula.

The rest of the country is for the most part unprospected and almost unknown to mining Europeans. The fact, however, is worth recording that good coal has been discovered close to the railway in the Northern Protectorate in such a form as to encourage closer search for a payable seam.

I have, &c,

F. J. NEWTON,

Resident Commissioner.

SOUTHERN PROTECTORATE : ANNUAL REPORT.

Assistant Commissioner's Office,

Gaberones, 27th August, 1897.

SIR,

IN compliance with the instructions contained in Your Honour's Minute of the 9th inst., I have the honour to submit the following Report for the year ended the 31st March last:—

1. The last year has been a most disastrous one for the natives in the Protectorate, and it will take a long time for them to recover from the very severe losses they have sustained during that period.

2. In March, 1896, the cattle plague known as rinderpest appeared at Palla, the northern border of the Southern Protectorate, having been brought down from Matabeleland by transport oxen. Endeavours were made to stamp it out by shooting all the spans of oxen and herds which first became infected with it, but the ox-wagon traffic between Buluwayo and Mafeking was so great at the time that the few police then in the country were totally inadequate to check the advance of the disease, and it rapidly swept through the whole of the Southern Protectorate, carrying off about 95 per cent. of the cattle in the country, and leaving hundreds of wagons stranded along the roads. The loss of their cattle has been a very severe blow to the natives, who had many thousands, and who depended, to a large extent, upon the milk from them for food for their families and upon the cattle themselves as currency wherewith to purchase whatever they required ; added to this, nearly all their crops during the last two seasons failed through drought and locusts.

3. In order to relieve the distress amongst the natives caused by the loss of their cattle and the failure of their crops, the Government sent grain into the country and sold it at cost price. The London Relief Committee also provided a number of bags of Kaffir corn and seed mealies, which were distributed amongst the different tribes.

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE. 1896–7.

4. The relief thus afforded warded off any actual starvation, but many of the people died of scurvy, caused, it is believed, by their eating meat only, which most of the natives did during the time the rinderpest raged in the country, and for some time afterwards.

5. Seeing that there was no hope of saving their cattle, they slaughtered many of them before they were affected by the disease, and sun-dried the meat in order to preserve it as long as possible. Some even dried the meat of cattle that actually died of rinderpest. The meat thus dried was kept, and formed the sole diet of many for several months.

6. Scurvy disappeared soon after the people began using, as food, the grain supplied by Government; but not long afterwards malarial fever broke out in several of the large villages and carried off a large number of the people. Some are still suffering from it, but not nearly so many as were a few months ago, and the death rate has greatly decreased.

7. In June, 1896, a European passenger by mail coach arrived here from Buluwayo suffering from typhoid fever, and, as he was too unwell to proceed by the coach, he remained here at one of the stores. He ultimately recovered, but several others, including his brother and a nurse from Kimberley, contracted the disease, and, I regret to say, died of it. As no case of the fever has occurred here for several months past, it is hoped that it has now left us.

8. All the tribes, except perhaps Linchwe's people, are at present very short of food, and many have not the means of purchasing sufficient for their families. They are, however, making an effort to obtain money for the purpose of buying food by going out to work at Kimberley, Jagersfontein, Johannesburg, or other places. So many of the men in the Southern Protectorate have done this that most of the villages present quite a deserted appearance.

9. During the year the railway has been constructed through the Protectorate. It was most fortunate that it was built so soon after the visitation of rinderpest, as, without it, the hardships caused by rinderpest would have been enormously increased. The chiefs through whose territories it passes did not in any way oppose its construction and gave no trouble whatever in connection with it.

10. Owing to the disorganised state in which the immense transport service through the country was suddenly thrown by rinderpest, and the influx of labourers on the railway construction works, there has been more judicial work in my Court during the last than during any previous year since my arrival in 1890. The number of criminal cases heard by me during the period under report was 140, and the number of civil cases 32.

11. The Protectorate Native Police have been extremely useful to me since their arrival in June, 1896, and have rendered great assistance not only in enforcing the provisions of the law and in carrying messages (which is a very important duty in a country where the chiefs can neither understand English nor obtain the services of a competent interpreter), but in enabling me through them to get into touch with the different chiefs in my district, and to obtain information regarding matters in which the chiefs or their people are concerned.

12. There is no doubt that natives, under European officers, are vastly more useful and efficient as policemen in a native territory than Europeans. The latter in such territory are, owing to their ignorance of the laws, customs and language of the natives, much more likely than the former to unnecessarily involve the Government in serious trouble with the chiefs.

13. As the Protectorate Native Police are Basuto from Basutoland, and as they are not connected with any tribe in the Protectorate, there is, in my opinion, no danger of their ever turning against the Government and joining any tribe that may become disloyal.

14. The prison accommodation at this station has been considerably increased. The Gaol, which formerly consisted of two small cells only, now contains six cells and two gaoler's rooms. A building 34 feet by 35 feet, containing four rooms, has also been erected for use as a Court-room and Public Offices.

15. Owing to the severe drought during the last two seasons, water has become very scarce, and can only be obtained at present at but few places in the lower Protectorate. At this Station it is now only obtainable from pits sunk in the bed of the Notwane River. This river, in ordinary seasons, contains a plentiful supply.

16. There is still a very bitter feeling between the Chief Sebele and the Bakwena who left Molepolole and settled at Kolobeng in 1895; and during last year a disturbance, in which three of the latter were shot, took place between the two sections about midway between Molepolole and Kolobeng. The matter was fully enquired into, and those who provoked the disturbance were brought to trial and punished. The Kolobeng Bakwena have been assigned an occupation boundary, but they are dissatisfied with it, and refuse to recognise Sebele as Paramount Chief over them.

17. In accordance with instructions from the Secretary of State a boundary was made by Mr. St. Quintin between the Chiefs Sebele and Linchwe, which runs considerably to the West of the railway line.

BECHUANA LAND PROTECTORATE, 1896–7.

18. The Revenue collected at this Office, from the 1st April, 1896, to the 31st March last, amounted to £11,328 8*s.* 11*d.* sterling, as follows :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Stamps and Fees				239	13	8
Fines				266	15	0
Licences : General Traders ...	420	0	0			
„ Hawkers	65	0	0			
„ Liquor	195	10	0			
„ Gun	36	0	0			
„ Gunpowder	15	0	0			
„ Ammunition	34	17	6			
„ Butchers	10	0	0			
„ Bakers	15	0	0			
				791	7	6
Miscellaneous Receipts				17	8	9
Total Ordinary Revenue				1,315	4	11
Sale of Relief Grain				10,013	4	0
Grand Total				£11,328	8	11

I have, &c.,

W. H. SURMON,

Assistant Commissioner.

His Honour

The Resident Commissioner,

Mafeking.

NORTHERN PROTECTORATE: ANNUAL REPORT.

Palapye,

21st August, 1897.

SIR,

As requested in your Honour's telegram of the 17th inst., I have the honour to forward my Annual Report for the financial year 1896–7.

I have, &c.,

J. A. ASHBURNHAM,
A. C.

His Honour
The Resident Commissioner,
Mafeking.

The past year has not been a prosperous one for the natives of the Northern Protectorate. As anticipated in my last Annual Report, the rinderpest, shortly after its appearance here, got quite beyond control, and it was found hopeless to attempt to check its progress through the country. An unsuccessful effort was made to keep the disease back at the Cape Colonial border, and finally all regulations on the subject were suspended with the exception of that prohibiting the importation of fresh cattle to feed the disease. This regulation is still enforced as far as possible, and only salted cattle (*i.e.* cattle which have recovered from rinderpest) are now allowed into the Bechuanaland Protectorate.

The percentage of native cattle which have "salted" is small—probably not more than 6 per cent.; Khama himself, who is said to have owned three or four hundred head of trained *trek* oxen, did not save a sufficient number of them to make up one span. It is difficult to estimate the actual losses of the natives, but it has been roughly calculated that about 800,000 head of cattle perished last year in Khama's country of rinderpest. This scourge has been followed by another season of drought and locusts, and the yield of grain this year will be considerably below the average. The distress, however, among the natives does not seem to have been so great as might have been expected. A large quantity of grain has been sent up during the year for distribution, in return for which it was

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE. 1896–7.

thought that the natives would supply labour for improving the roads and water supply, and for other useful public works. It has been found, however, that the natives have experienced no difficulty in paying for all grain supplied, and nearly £1,000 has been received by me under this head during the past year. A certain quantity of grain was supplied by a London Committee for gratuitous distribution, but the Chief Khama, on behalf of his tribe, stated that his people were able and willing to pay, and would prefer to do so. The grain in question was, therefore, sold to them at a low rate, which merely covered the cost of transport. Fifty bags of this grain were forwarded to the General Manager of the Tati Concessions for gratuitous distribution amongst the natives in the Tati District, where there has been much distress and want.

The Europeans—among whom carriers have perhaps been the greatest sufferers—being less inured to hardships, and feeling the pinch of poverty more than the natives, have suffered to a greater extent during these times of trouble. Many of them had invested their last pennies in oxen, and were left absolutely destitute. Some few obtained temporary relief from the Government, but I have found the transport riders, as a class, anxious to help themselves and reluctant to apply for relief until actually compelled by imminent starvation. The local merchants have given a helping hand to the more deserving carriers by advancing them money for the purchase of salted oxen ; the cost of transport advanced to almost ten times the normal rate ; and the majority of these men were soon able to repay the advances, and make a fresh start in life. Towards the close of the year a Board was appointed to examine claims for compensation for oxen actually destroyed by Government to prevent the spread of rinderpest, and it is hoped that some payment may shortly be made to the owners of all such cattle.*

Owing to failure of transport, following on the outbreak of rinderpest, the cost of living in the Northern Protectorate was enormously increased, and the natives—who have been spending money with reckless extravagance—must have been greatly impoverished. In the midst of the times of greatest want the natives would eagerly flock to local stores to secure meal at £10 per bag of 200 lbs., sugar at 2*s.* and 2*s.* 6*d.* per lb., and sweets, jams, and other luxuries at exorbitant rates. It appeared as though the natives, having at last been compelled to open their purses, could not rest until their savings had been expended. The local merchants have reaped a rich harvest, but this lavish expenditure by the natives of their cash must inevitably affect the trade of the district for some time to come.

The advent of the railway has placed a different aspect on the condition of affairs in the Northern Protectorate by cheapening the cost of living and affording employment to large numbers of

* COLONIAL OFFICE NOTE : A sum of £11,181 was paid on this account in August 1897.

natives and Europeans. The line has been opened for traffic as far as Mochudi, in the Southern Protectorate, but the rails have passed Palapye, and the contractor brings up such goods and passengers as he is able along the Mochudi-Palapye section.

The clause in the railway agreement between Khama and the Railway Company by which it was stipulated that no buildings were to be erected within the railway strip except those required for railway purposes only has given rise to some dissatisfaction amongst European traders from the South, who wished to open stores at the railway siding. Khama has granted the necessary permission to local firms, but has refused it to others. Whether he has been wise in thus stifling competition may be doubted, but he has his own reasons for his action, and his right is indisputable.

The four consecutive years of comparative drought have seriously affected the water-supply of the Northern Protectorate, and, unless next rainy season is exceptionally good, it is doubtful whether Khama will be able much longer to maintain a population of from 20,000 to 30,000 persons in one centre such as Palapye. The chief would probably be wise if he were now to considerably reduce the size of his town and scatter his people more about the country; but he will not do this until circumstances actually compel him, as it is evident that his hold over his people is gradually weakening and would be still further endangered by any such process of decentralization.

Attempts to improve the water supply along the main road to the north have resulted in the sinking of six wells, at three of which a good supply of water has been obtained. Two of the remaining wells were abandoned after sinking through hard rock to a depth of about 100 feet, and the third well was not completed at the close of the financial year. The three wells in which water has been found are north of Palapye, and have already proved of inestimable value in facilitating the carriage of goods to Matebeleland.

During the past year an expedition under Major Lugard has been despatched to Ngamiland under the auspices of the West Charterland Company, and is engaged in exploring and developing that part of the Protectorate.

The ten mile strip granted by the Chief Khama to the British South Africa Company along the Eastern border of his country has been marked off as far as the Macloutsi River by Mr. St. Quintin, but the line has not yet been surveyed.

A number of the Baselika, who were driven out of the country by Khama some years ago by force of arms, have gradually returned, and have settled near their old head-quarters in Selika's Mountain. These people have proved troublesome, and were suspected by Khama of stealing cattle and harbouring thieves. For this they had every facility, as they resided near the Transvaal border, and could easily dispose of any stolen property

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE. 1896-7.

by sending it across the Crocodile River to the head-quarters of the tribe in the South African Republic. Moreover, complaints were received through the missionary, as well as from the chief himself, that the heathen rites and ceremonies observed by these people in connection with the circumcision "schools" caused great disquiet among the Bamangwato, and were likely—if left to go on unchecked—to lead to bloodshed. For these and other reasons it was deemed expedient to order the Baselika, who had resettled in the Protectorate without any right or permission, to return to the head-quarters of their tribe in the Transvaal.

A small seam of apparently excellent coal was discovered towards the close of the year at Mopani Pan (about 18 miles from Palapye) at a depth of 80 feet by the white man engaged in sinking the Government well at that place. An experienced geologist was sent from Kimberley to examine the seam and, though he pronounced it to be too narrow to work, yet he considered the general indications extremely favourable to the existence of a coal mine in the vicinity, and it is proposed to take further steps towards the development of this discovery. A diamond drill will, it is hoped, be shortly at work in this locality.

During the year the office accommodation has been greatly improved by the purchase of a suitable house containing a court-room and offices of sufficient size to meet all probable requirements for some years to come. An additional cell has also been built on to the gaol, and the old hut formerly used as a court-house has been handed over to the police.

The administration of justice has been much facilitated by the appointment of Captain Williams and Mr. C. R. Vigers as special justices of the peace—the former with jurisdiction along the railway line, the latter with jurisdiction in the Tati district.

The legislative enactments of the year have referred largely to rinderpest; the liquor law has been amended so as to place the supply of liquor to Indians under greater control.

The civil and criminal work has increased considerably, as is only to be expected with the development of the country.

The prospect is not at present a bright one; but good rains next season, the successful development of the Tati district and the discovery of a payable coal mine near Palapye, are possibilities which would ensure the prosperity of this part of the Protectorate.

J. A. ASHBURNHAM,

Assistant Commissioner.

BECHUANALAND MOUNTED POLICE: ANNUAL REPORT.

The Annual Report of the Bechuanaland Mounted Police for 1896-7 is compiled from 1st April, 1896, to 31st March, 1897.

I.—*Strength.*

The strength of the force on 1st April, 1896, was as follows:—

Distribution	Officers.	N.C.Os. and men.	Total.
N. Protectorate	1	12	13
S. Protectorate	1	4	5
Ngamiland	1	10	11
Mafeking	3	12	15
England	2	2	4
Leave	1	—	1
Total	9	40	49

In April, 1896, the strength of the force was increased to 82, all ranks, which, with 50 special police authorised in March, 1896, made a total of 132.

Two Lieutenants were added to the establishment in February, 1897.

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE. 1896-7.

The authorised strength of the force is 134 all ranks, and the present distribution is as follows :—

Distribution.	Officers.	N.C.Os. and men.	Total.
N. Protectorate	1	32	33
S. Protectorate	1	29	30
Ngamiland	2	14	16
Mafeking	4	32	36
Leave	3	1	4
En route	1	6	7
Absent	—	1	1
Total	12	115	127

II.—*Appointments, Promotions, and Transfer.*

The following appointments, promotions, and transfer have taken place during the year.

Sub-Lieutenant A. B. Phipps promoted Lieutenant 1st April, 1896.

Sub-Lieutenant S. W. J. Scholefield promoted Lieutenant 1st April, 1896.

Surgeon E. C. F. Garraway re-transferred from the British South Africa Company's Police 20th May, 1896.

Lieutenant A. P. W. Williams appointed Captain 1st February, 1897.

Lieutenant T. M. Drew, Leicestershire Regiment, appointed Lieutenant, 15th February, 1897.

Lieutenant C. A. K. Pechell, Kings' Royal Rifles, appointed Lieutenant, 15th February, 1897.

III.—*Deaths.*

I regret to report the following deaths :—

Trooper F. A. Lucas died at Mafeking, 24th October, 1896.

Trooper A. C. Hill was accidentally shot at Palapye, 14th February, 1897.

IV.—*Desertions.*

There have been no desertions during the year.

V.—*Native Strength.*

The strength of natives on 31st March, 1897, was as follows:—

Mafeking	12
Gaberones	3
Ngamiland	4
With Major Goold-Adams	2
Total	21

VI.—*Transport Vehicles.*

The transport of the corps on 1st April, 1896, was as follows:—

26 Ox wagons.
5 Scotch carts.
9 Water carts.
4 Cape carts.

The present strength is as follows:—

16 Ox wagons.
3 Scotch carts.
6 Water carts.
3 Cape carts.

VII.—*Mule Strength.*

The strength of mules on 1st April, 1896, was 30.
The present strength is 28.

VIII.—*Ox Strength.*

The strength of oxen on 1st April, 1896, was 431.
The present strength is 97.

IX.—*Donkey Strength.*

The present strength of donkeys is 4.

X.—*Horse Strength.*

The strength of horses on 1st April, 1896, was 63. During the year 70 have been purchased, 2 which had been lost were recovered and one was born in the regiment, 44 have died, 2 have been sold as unfit for further service, and 6 have been shot for various reasons, including one undoubted and two suspicious cases

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE. 1896–7.

of glanders, and 1 was transferred to the British South Africa Company, leaving the present strength 83, which are distributed as follows :—

N. Protectorate...	28
S. Protectorate	19
Ngamiland	20
Mafeking	16
Total	83

XI.—*Armament.*

The armament of the corps at the present time consists of :—

196 M.-H. Rifles.
103 Bayonets.
26 Revolvers.
115,235 M.-H. Ammunition.
3,650 Revolver „

XII.—*Special Employment.*

Nine Troopers have been employed in performing the duties of Customs Officers at Mafeking, Lobatsi, Gaberones, Sequani, Palla, Mahalapsi, Palapye, Palapye railway siding, and Macloutsie.

Sub-Lieutenant Phipps and 8 N.C.Os. and men were stationed in Ngamiland at the beginning of the year.

Lieutenant Scholefield and 9 men left Mafeking on 2nd February to relieve the detachment stationed in Ngamiland.

1 Trooper has been employed as orderly to Major Goold-Adams on the Barotse Commission.

2 Sergeants and 8 Corporals of Orderlies have been employed as under :—

2 Sergeants.

(1.) Clerk of the Court, Palapye.
(2.) Driver to H.H. the Resident Commissioner.

8 Corporals.

(1.) Interpreter to the Assistant Commissioner, Palapye.
(2.) Orderly to the Government Engineer Officer.
(3.) Hospital Orderly, Gaberones.
(4.) Clerk to the Acting Assistant Commissioner, Gaberones.
(5.) Orderly to A. A. C., Gaberones.
(6.) „ „ „
(7.) Relief scheme.
(8.) Orderly to the Assistant Commissioner, Palapye.

3 men have been employed in the disinfection of animal produce in the Protectorate, according to the rinderpest regulations.

A number of men have been employed superintending the burning of rinderpest carcases.

Several men have been employed on the Native Relief Scheme, distributing grain.

XIII.—*Patrols.*

Constant patrols have been made throughout the area occupied by the police during the year.

XIV.—*Outstations.*

The following outstations have been occupied during the year :—

(Headquarters, Mafeking.)

Northern Protectorate.—Ngami, Tati, Macloutsie, Palapye, Palapye siding, Mahalapsi, Palla.

Southern Protectorate. — Crocodile Pool, Mochudi, Sequani, Gaberones, Lobatsi, Pitsani Pothlugu, Ramathlabama.

XV.—*Arrests and Convictions.*

I attach a statement * of the number of arrests made and convictions obtained by the police during the year.

XVI.—*Health.*

I attach the Medical Officers' reports.

XVII.—*Regimental Works.*

I attach a report of the repairs and improvements effected during the year.

Protectorate Native Police.

The Annual Report of the Protectorate Native Police for 1896-7 is compiled from 23rd April, 1896, to 31st March, 1897.

I.—*Strength.*

The corps was established on 23rd April, 1896, the authorised strength being 64 all ranks as under :—

1	Captain.
3	Lieutenants.
4	Sergeants.
5	Corporals.
1	Saddler.
50	Troopers.
Total ...	64

* Not printed.

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE, 1896–7.

The present distribution is as follows :—

—	Officers.	N.C.Os. and men.	Total.
Gaberones	2	37	39
Kanye	1	7	8
Molopolole...	1	10	11
Palapye	—	2	2
Total	4	56	60

II.—*Appointments and Resignations.*

Captain F. E. Moony resigned, 6th February, 1897.

Sub-Inspector J. T. Griffith, Basutoland Mounted Police, was appointed Captain, 7th February, 1897.

Lieutenant H. Griffith resigned, 22nd March, 1897.

W. B. Surmon, Esq. was appointed Lieutenant, 25th March, 1897.

III.—*Death.*

Trooper Motetioa died at Kanya, 20th October, 1896.

IV.—*Desertion.*

There have been no desertions during the year.

V.—*Horse Strength.*

There were 67 horses on the strength of the corps on 26th May, 1896.

During the year 20 died of horse sickness, 1 of lockjaw, 1 was shot (broken leg) and 1 was drowned, leaving the present strength 44, which are distributed as under :—

Gaberones	31
Kanye	7
Molopolole	6
Total	44

VI.—*Armament.*

The armament of the corps at the present time consists of :—

M-H. Ammunition ...	10,271 rounds.
„ Rifles	60

VII.—*Special Employment.*

Two troopers have been employed as prison guards at Palapye.

One trooper has been employed as groom to His Honour the Resident Commissioner at Mafeking.

Several men have been employed superintending the burning of rinderpest carcases.

One man has been employed on the Native Relief Scheme assisting Bechuanaland Mounted Police to distribute grain.

Two men have been employed as prison guards at Gaberones.

VIII.—*Patrols.*

Constant patrols have been made throughout the area occupied by the police during the year.

IX.—*Outstations.*

The following outstations have been occupied during the year :—

(Headquarters, Gaberones.)

Kanye. Molopolole. Kolobeng.

X.—*Arrests and Convictions.*

I attach a statement* of the number of arrests made and convictions obtained by the police during the year.

XI.—*Health.*

I attach reports from the Medical Officers.

XII.—*Regimental Works.*

I attach a report of the repairs and improvements effected during the year.

Regimental Works.

The following repairs and improvements have been effected during the year :—

Gaberones.—All buildings repaired.

Kanya.—New stable built.

Molopolole.—Repairs and extra stabling for five horses provided.

Ramathlabama.—New stable built.

Mafeking.—Repairs.

---

* Not printed.

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE. 1896–7.

The stables at Ramathlabama and Molopolole are of galvanized iron, in sections, so that they may be removed to other stations if necessary.

When the estimates were framed the subsequent increase in the strength of the corps was not anticipated, and therefore very little money has been available in 1896–7 for Police Works. Nearly all the funds were required for important Civil Works.

SUMMARY.

Owing to the scarcity of transport it has been impossible during the past year to keep up several important out-stations, but law and order has been maintained in a satisfactory manner in all districts within reach of the police.

A comparatively small number of horses, viz. 47 per cent., have died of horse sickness, probably owing to the fact that as many unsalted horses as possible have been stationed in the Southern Protectorate, where the disease is not so virulent as in the Northern.

The discipline of the Force has been most satisfactory when it is taken into consideration that owing to the rinderpest a number of men had to be enrolled with probably no testimonials.

J. A. H. WALFORD,

Capt. Comdg. Protectorate Police.

Mafeking,

1st April, 1897.

SIR,

IN obedience to your instructions of the 15th March, I have the honour to make the following report :—

In May, 1896, I proceeded to Fort Gaberones when I took charge of that station ; the Protectorate Native Police, and one N. C. O. and from three to five men of the B. M. Police, being stationed there.

The Station is a very healthy one, and there was little or no illness among the men of the B. M. Police. The Basuto Police, however, being all recruits, and totally unaccustomed to the ration-diet, suffered a good deal at first. This was in a great

manner due to the fact of there being no fresh meat procurable at the time, owing to the rinderpest, and the men coming from Basutoland, where their diet consists entirely of Kaffir-corn and Kaffir-beer, felt the change to tinned corned-beef and coffee considerably. However, there were no deaths among the men at Gaberones, and only one at Kanya, one of their out-stations, from dysentery ; this, too, when the natives in the Protectorate were dying by hundreds of scorbutic diseases. The Protectorate Native Police are now thoroughly acclimatized, and not likely to feel the next hot season so severely.

The water supply at Gaberones has been very scanty for the past eight months. This is owing to the succession of very dry seasons, and also to the fact that the Notwani River has been dammed about ten miles above the Camp by the railway authorities.

The rations during the past year have not been as good as formerly, being chiefly tinned foods, but this was unavoidable, owing to the rinderpest and difficulties of transport.

The hospital equipment at Gaberones is very deficient, in fact there is nothing there except drugs and instruments. Should the number of white police stationed there be increased, this will require to be altered, as the men have neither bed-cots nor a sufficiency of blankets in case of illness.

There was a very severe epidemic of typhoid fever at Gaberones lasting two months. It was confined entirely to the civilian population, thus demonstrating the excellent sanitary condition of the camp. The camp is situated about 200 yards from the stores, where the outbreak took place.

The out-stations of the P. N. Police at Kanya and Molopolole are in excellent condition, and the health of the men has been very good.

Of the B. M. P. out-stations, Sequani and Mochudi have always been healthy enough, though men stationed there are occasionally down with malaria. Palla, however, is a very unhealthy station, and I should strongly recommend that the men stationed there be relieved frequently.

On February 18th, 1897, having handed over the station at Gaberones to Surgeon Holmden, I came down here and took this station over from Dr. Heberden.

The health of the men here has been very good, and their rations are excellent. The old latrines were in a very unsanitary condition, and I have had a new latrine dug, some distance from the barracks.

I am of opinion that bed-cots should be issued to the men, as at present they have all sorts of stretchers, purchased by themselves, and these harbour all sorts of vermin, in spite of every ordinary precaution. Besides, a number of men who have no stretchers sleep on the ground.

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE. 1896–7.

List of sick under my care from May 31st, 1896, to March 31st, 1897 :—

Gaberones.

Diseases.	B. M. P.	P. N. P.
Malaria	3	18
Scurvy	—	23
Dysentery	1	11
Diarrhœa	2	12
Rheumatism	—	5
Bronchitis	2	21
Conjunctivitis	—	2
Dyspepsia	—	29
Earache	—	4
Adenitis	—	1
Lumbago	—	2
Catarrh	—	5
Tapeworm	—	4
Casualties	—	4
Total	8	141
Venereal Disease :		
Syphilis	—	1
Gonorrhœa	—	4
Total	—	5

Mafeking.

Malaria	4	—
Typhoid Fever	1	—
Gonorrhœa	2	—
Dysentery	2	—
Earache	1	—
Conjunctivitis	1	—
Cystitis	1	—
Balanitis	1	—
Diarrhœa	2	—
Lumbago	1	—
Catarrh	1	—
Casualties	1	—
Mafeking total	18	—
Gaberones ,, ...	8	141
Venereal. Gaberones	—	5
Grand total	26	146

I have, &c.,
E. C. F. GARRAWAY,
Surgeon, B.M.P.

The Commanding Officer,
Bechuanaland Mounted Police.

Gaberones,

13th April, 1897.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Annual Report concerning the health of the various stations under my medical charge from April 1st, 1896, to March 31st, 1897.

The general health of the men in the Northern Protectorate from April, 1896, to February 12th, 1897, was good, and no deaths occurred. The general good health can be attributed to the small amount of rain-fall in the Northern Protectorate during the last year.

The sanitary conditions at Macloutsie are good. At Palapye Stadt, the position of the B. M. P. Camp, for sanitary purposes, is not so favourable, it being near rocks used by natives for various deposits. I do not anticipate any particular danger from this source, unless a large rain-fall takes place in the vicinity.

Southern Protectorate from February 18th, 1897, to March 31st, 1897.

Since I took over medical charge at Gaberones in the Southern Protectorate, the health of the men at that station has been fairly good, and no deaths have occurred.

The sanitary conditions of the barracks occupied by the Protectorate Native Police is satisfactory. I would suggest that the Protectorate Native Police should be instructed to use latrines, as their ordinary use of the veldt is to be deprecated.

Three men of the B. M. P. have lately been sent down from Palla suffering severely from malaria. This is an unhealthy station, and I would advise that the B. M. P. quarters should be inspected with a view to removing them to a more healthy spot if practicable.

I have, &c.,

F. A. H. HOLMDEN,

M.O., B.M.P.

To the Officer Commanding

Bechuanaland Mounted Police,

Mafeking.

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE, 1896–7.

The number of men treated in the Northern Protectorate from April 1st, 1896, to 12th February, 1897 :—

Diseases.	No.	Diseases.	No.
Malaria	7	Rheumatism	1
Diarrhœa	6	Dyspepsia	2
Dysentery	1	Vermes	1
Gonorrhœa	3	Veldt-sores	1
Syphilis	2	Cardiac	1
Diseases total	25		

The number of men treated in the Southern Protectorate from the 18th February, 1897, to the 31st March, 1897 :—

Diseases.	No.	Diseases.	No.
Malaria	13	Lumbago	3
Dysentery	4	Hepatitis	1
Diarrhœa	3	Tænia	1
Catarrh	5	Abscess	1
Myalgia	1	Pharyngitis	1
Sciatica	1		
Diseases total	34		

The number of men treated in both Protectorates, 59.

I have, &c.,

F. A. H. HOLMDEN,

M.O., B.P.M.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF THE BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1897.

Revenue.

	£
Customs	8,693
Licences	1,438
Revenue stamps	463
Posts	7,558
Sales of Government property ...	17,441
Sundries	11,917
Total	£47,510

Expenditure.

	£
Pensions	351
Resident Commissioner	2,122
Legal	952
District Administration	2,416
Posts	7,571
Customs	297
Police	40,102
Miscellaneous	1,587
Public Works Recurrent	794
Do. Extraordinary ...	2,903
Medical	155
Boundary Commission	339
Rinderpest	4,707
Native Relief	24,152
Total	£88,448

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE, 1896–7.

REPORT OF THE ACTING POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

General Post Office,
Cape Town, Cape of Good Hope,
19th August, 1897.

SIR,

WITH reference to your telegram of the 11th inst., requesting to be furnished with my Annual Report for the year ended 31st March last, in respect of postal matters in the Bechuanaland Protectorate, I have the honour to forward herewith, in duplicate, the Report in question.

I have, &c.,

BEN DUFF,

Acting Postmaster-General.

The Resident Commissioner,
Mafeking.

The annexation of British Bechuanaland to the Cape Colony on the 16th of November 1895 considerably modified the arrangements which previously existed in connection with the post and telegraph administration of that territory, inasmuch as the postal and telegraph business within British Bechuanaland was transferred with the territory to the Cape Colony, the separate postal administration having been continued only as regards the Protectorate, in which territory no change in the postal system, or in the scope of its business, has as yet taken place. I hope, however, to see the issue and payment of Money Orders undertaken at an early date,* and to otherwise have the usefulness of the Post Office extended. The telegraph system, it will be remembered, appertains to the British South Africa Company.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The principal item of revenue is shewn as transit rates received from other administrations for the conveyance of their mail

* COLONIAL OFFICE NOTE: A money order system was to come into force from 1st April 1898.

matter through the Protectorate to Rhodesia, and from the latter country to other South African States and oversea countries, the exact payments to the Protectorate administration by other Governments under this head having been £5,438 9*s.* 6*d.*

As the largest item of revenue was derived from the conveyance of mails through the Protectorate, so the principal item of expenditure was in connection with this service, the sum of £5,994 19*s.* 0*d.* having been expended for the conveyance of mails during the year. The salary and administration charges totalled £272 19*s.* 2*d.* only.

Conveyance of Mails.—Mafeking to Bulawayo, &c.

The conveyance of the mails throughout the Protectorate was effected during the year under the Agreement entered into in May 1895 with the British South Africa Company, whereby Messrs. Zeederberg contracted to convey the mails between Mafeking and Bulawayo. Through native troubles in the north, and with rinderpest raging within the Protectorate itself, the maintenance of regular mail communication has been no easy task, but I am pleased to be able to report that, notwithstanding all difficulties, the service has been efficiently performed.

It was thought that the railway in course of construction between Mafeking and Bulawayo would have been sufficiently far advanced to allow of the mails being conveyed over the section Mafeking to Palapye (262 miles) from the beginning of March 1897, but it was found possible only to convey the mails by rail beyond Mafeking to Mochudi (124 miles) from the 1st of March. It is, however, anticipated that the line will be through to Bulawayo in November next. The completion of the railway in sections, and the formal taking over of its working, will enable me to gradually reduce the payments made to the mail contractors; indeed, a considerable saving has already been effected in connection with the opening of the railway to Mochudi, although it has thrown upon the Department the responsibility of providing specially for the branch posts, which were served by Messrs. Zeederberg under their mail contract.

With the completion of the railway to Bulawayo, it will hardly be possible to maintain the high rates of transit now obtaining within the Protectorate, and it is to be hoped that my recommendations in this connection, and also with regard to a reduction of the postage rates to and from the Protectorate, will be adopted.

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE. 1896-7.

Branch Posts.

The following Branch Posts are now separately maintained by the Protectorate administration :—

Gaberones station to Gaberones.
„ to Molopolole.
Lobatsi to Kanye.
Ramoutsa siding to Ramoutsa.

Communication with Palla, Palapye and Macloutsie was, at the end of March last, still maintained by the mail contractors, but on the opening of the railway to Palapye station, it will be incumbent on the Protectorate Government to undertake the Palla and Palapye services.

Correspondence Posted within the Protectorate.

During the year the total number of ordinary letters posted reached 70,603, of which 5,096 were registered. There were posted, in addition, 7,436 Official Letters, 247 Post Cards, 1,482 Newspapers, 1,092 Ordinary and 2,054 Official Books, and 338 Parcels. Full particulars of the traffic, together with the value, will be found in Appendix.

Staff.

Ten Post Office Agents and Deputy Postmasters were employed within the territory on the 31st of March, and a similar number of Post Offices were open for the transaction of business.

General.

The future of the territory, from a postal point of view, is hopeful, and I have little doubt that, with the railway in operation throughout the Protectorate, trade will be stimulated, and a gradually increasing European population—who will recognise the advantage of, and fully utilise, an organised postal service—will be brought into the country. As, in addition, mails will be conveyed under the railway agreement free of charge between Mafeking and Palapye, I anticipate that, notwithstanding a certain shrinkage in the receipts, which would for a time follow any reduction of transit rates and postage charges, the revenue will, in any case, more than cover the expenditure.

BEN DUFF,
Acting Postmaster-General.

General Post Office, Capetown,
17th August, 1897.

Statement of Correspondence Posted in Bechuanaland Protectorate during the Year Ended 31st March, 1897.

Ordinary Letters.						Registered Letters.		Postcards.			Newspapers.		Book and Sample Packets.		Parcels.		Total.	
For Cape Colony, Natal, Orange Free State and Transvaal.		For Protectorate and Rhodesia.		For United Kingdom and Foreign Countries.				No.		Value.								
No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	@ 1*d.*	@ 1½*d.*		No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
42,081	£701	13,676	£228	9,750	£244	5,096	£169	247	559	£4	1,482	£6	1,092	£18	338	£42	73,983	£1,412

Official Correspondence Posted.

Letters.		Books.		Total.	
Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.
7,436	£248	2,054	£8	9,490	£256

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 228.

BERMUDA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 192.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

May, 1898.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 1-3, Great St. Thomas Apostle, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.; and
32, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, Hanover Street, Edinburgh, and
90, West Nile Street, Glasgow; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., Limited, 104, Grafton Street, Dublin.

1898.

[C.—8650-26.] *Price* 1*d*.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
196	Malta	1896
197	British New Guinea	1895–96
198	Turks and Caicos Islands	1896
199	Barbados	„
200	Leeward Islands	1895
201	Trinidad and Tobago	1896
202	Gibraltar	„
203	Fiji (Trade)	„
204	Straits Settlements	1895
205	Do. do.	1896
206	Falkland Islands	„
207	British Honduras	„
208	Sierra Leone	„
209	Grenada	„
210	Hong Kong	„
211	St. Lucia	„
212	St. Vincent	„
213	St. Helena	„
214	Seychelles	„
215	Mauritius	„
216	Cocos–Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1897
217	Fiji	1896
218	Ceylon	„
219	Lagos	„
220	Gold Coast	„
221	Labuan	„
222	British Guiana	1896–97
223	Rodrigues	1896
224	Basutoland	1896–97
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate	„
227	Leeward Islands	1896

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.

No. 228.

BERMUDA.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 192.)

GOVERNOR BARKER to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Bermuda,
23rd March 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the report on the annual Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1897, which has been prepared by the Acting Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,
G. DIGBY BARKER,
Lieut.-General, Governor, and Commander-in-Chief.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Bermuda,
16th March 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit to Your Excellency the following report on the Blue Book for the year 1897 :—

FINANCE.

2. The revenue for the year amounted to £35,965 and the expenditure to £35,704. Compared with 1896 the revenue shews an increase of £1709 and the expenditure an increase of £987.

The revenue returns for 1896 were supplemented by the sum of £1000 and those for 1897 by the sum of £906, which amounts were paid into the Treasury by the Trustees of the Savings Bank, being the excess of the assets of the bank over its liabilities owing to the enhanced value of consols in which its funds are invested.

16571*—75—4/98 Wt 21620 D & S—5 (B)

BERMUDA 1897.

Excluding these abnormal receipts the revenue in 1897 shews an increase compared with 1896 of £1803.

3. The following tables compare the revenue and expenditure for 1897 with that of 1896 :—

REVENUE.

—	Customs.	Other Receipts.	Total.
	£	£	£
1896... ...	26,717	7,539	34,256
1897... ...	28,117	7,848	35,965
Increase £	1,400	309	1,709

EXPENDITURE.

—	Personal Emoluments.	Other Charges.	Total.
	£	£	£
1896	19,007	15,710	34,717
1897	17,289	18,415	35,704
Increase £	—	2,705	987
Decrease £	1,718	—	—

Compared with 1896 the following were the principal differences shewn in the disbursements :—

	£
Colonial Surveyor, an increase of ...	... 1,705
Miscellaneous Payments	... 601
Whilst in the—	
Library there was a decrease of ...	... 430
Annuities and Gratuities	... 296

The increase under the heading of "Colonial Surveyor" is chiefly due to expenditure on new works.

The decrease under the heading of "Library" is due to there being no importation of new books in 1897.

4. The Imperial expenditure returns are as follows :—

	£
Governor's salary	... 2,199
Military Establishments	... 109,532

Compared with 1896 the latter return shews an increase of £4100.

The expenditure on the naval establishments is not returned.

PUBLIC DEBT.

5. The Public Debt at the end of 1897 amounted to £46,100, made up as follows :—

	£
Local Inscribed Stock	40,000
New Government House Debentures ...	6,100

The rate of interest on the local inscribed stock is $4\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., and the average rate of interest on the Government House debentures is $4\frac{3}{8}$ per cent. Both of these loans were issued locally.

The local inscribed stock which was issued in 1893-4 is redeemable at par in 1923, and the sum of £1000, being the second annual instalment to be paid on account of the sinking fnnd created in connection therewith, was remitted last year to London for investment.

LEGISLATION.

6. The regular session of 1896 did not close until the 6th January 1897. The Act passed in this session in 1897 does not call for special notice.

The regular session of 1897 commenced on the 20th May and was not closed until after the commencement of 1898.

Of the 13 Acts passed in this session during 1897 the most important are :—

(No. 4.) "The Survey of Bermuda Act, 1897."

(No. 5.) "The Demise of the Crown Act, 1897."

(No. 7.) "An Act to amend the law relating to Aliens."

(No. 12.) "The Statute Law Consolidation Act, 1897."

By Act No. 4 an additional grant of £150 was made towards the cost of the proposed trigonometrical survey and map of these Islands.

Act No. 5 provides that the Colonial Parliament of these Islands shall not be determined or dissolved by or after any future demise of the Crown unless it should be sooner prorogued or dissolved.

Act No. 7 provides that aliens or statutory aliens possessed of or entitled to land in these Islands at the time of the commencement of the Act may dispose thereof by deed within five years thereafter, and that aliens or statutory aliens becoming, after the commencement of the Act, entitled to land by devise or inheritance may dispose thereof by deed within five years after so becoming entitled.

BERMUDA. 1897.

By this Act also the 1st section of the Alien Act, 1857, is repealed. This section provided that persons born out of Her Majesty's Dominions, of a mother being a natural born subject, should be capable of taking real or personal estate in Bermuda.

Act No. 12 makes provision for the consolidation of the Acts of the Legislature in certain cases.

COUNCILS AND ASSEMBLY.

7. The Colonial Parliament, which was first summoned in May 1890, having been in existence for nearly the full period (seven years) provided by law, was dissolved in February and a general election for members of the House of Assembly was held the following month.

Of the 36 members then returned 28 had been members of the old House.

The number of persons qualified to vote at this election was 1,123 (732 white and 391 coloured), or an average of 31 electors for each member.

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

8. His Excellency the Governor was absent on leave from the 2nd September to the 10th October. During his absence Colonel E. C. S. Moore, R.E., C.R.E., the senior military officer in the command, administered the government.

Consequent on the death of the Worshipful John Fowle, Police Magistrate for Sandys Parish, in September, Mr. John B. Zuill was appointed in October to fill that office.

IMPORTS (exclusive of specie).

9. The value of the imports (exclusive of specie valued at £74) in 1897 was £323,074.

Compared with 1896 this shews an increase of £18,179, with 1895 of £17,600, and with 1894 of £39,122.

The value of the imports from the United Kingdom and other countries respectively in 1896 and 1897 is shewn in the following table :—

	1896.	1897.
	£	£
United Kingdom	90,025	95,424
Canada	20,886	24,550
Other British Colonies	7,756	6,517
United States of America...	184,391	195,167
Other Countries	1,837	1,416
Total ... ... £	304,895	323,074

The principal imports from the United Kingdom in 1897 were clothing, valued at £7,725 ; cotton goods, £11,799 ; woollen goods, £13,086 ; oilman's stores, £5,015 ; jewellery and plated ware, £2,957 ; sugar, £3,856 ; and malt liquor, £18,963.

The principal imports from the United States of America were butter, valued at £10,698 ; flour, £18,744 ; groceries, £4,559 ; leather manufactures, £6,482 ; provisions, including smoked and pickled meat, £13,470 ; oxen and cows, £29,481.

EXPORTS (exclusive of specie).

The value of the exports (exclusive of specie valued at £4,621) in 1897 was £123,082.

Compared with 1896 this shews an increase of £22,019, and with 1895 of £14,064.

The following table shews the value of the exports to the United Kingdom and other countries respectively in 1896 and 1897 :—

	1896.	1897.
	£	£
United Kingdom	2,853	3,519
Canada	3,210	1,640
Other British Colonies	2,847	1,213
United States of America...	91,407	116,294
Other Countries	746	416
Total ... ... £	101,063	123,082

The principal export to the United Kingdom in 1897 was bulbs, valued at £1,803.

The principal exports to the United States were onions, valued at £84,112, an increase compared with the preceding year of £29,269 ; lily bulbs, valued at £8,080, a decrease compared with the preceding year of £4,351 ; and potatoes, £19,529, an increase of £712.

POPULATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

10. The Acting Registrar-General estimated the resident civilian population of these Islands at the end of 1897 at 16,098, comprising 6,184 white (3,034 males and 3,150 females), and 9,914 coloured persons (4,584 males and 5,330 females).

BERMUDA. 1897.

The birth rate was 31·7 and the death rate 21 per 1000. The infants registered as born out of wedlock were in the proportion of 16·2 to 100 births.

The average strength of the Imperial forces in Bermuda in 1897 was 3,178, and the deaths numbered 20, the rate of mortality thus being about 6·2 per 1000. Of these deaths 7 were due to enteric fever.

The senior medical officer in charge of the military forces in the command reports that the general health of the troops has been good. Average strength of the garrison, 1,521 ; number of admissions to hospital, 687 ; ratio of admission per 1000 of strength, 451·68 ; number of deaths, 16; average number of daily sick, 40·64; average sick time to each soldier, 9·75 days; average duration of each case of sickness, 21·59 days. Average strength of officers, 67 ; cases of sickness, 20 ; deaths, 2.

The principal naval medical officer reports that the number of cases of disease and injury admitted into the Royal Naval Hospital was 315, an increase on the previous year of 13. The most prevalent diseases were venereal affections, diseases of the respiratory and digestive systems, and local injuries. There has been no epidemic disease, and of enteric fever only four cases.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

11. The number of offences reported to the police or magistrates during the year was 336, a decrease compared with 1896 of 126, and a decrease compared with 1895 of 114.

The number of persons apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrates was 315, of whom 185 were summarily convicted, 39 discharged for want of evidence, 68 acquitted, and 23 committed for trial in the superior courts.

Of the 185 persons summarily convicted, 122 were fined, 8 imprisoned in lieu of fine or surety, 34 peremptorily imprisoned, 1 whipped, and 10 bound over to keep the peace.

Twenty-two cases were tried in the superior courts during the year and the convictions numbered 17. Of these 12 were for offences against the person and 5 for offences against property.

GAOLS.

12. The number of persons confined in the gaols was 92 (84 males and 8 females). Of these 33 were committed for safe custody till trial, or for want of security, and 59 for purposes of penal imprisonment.

LUNATIC ASYLUM.

13. Three patients (2 males and 1 female) were admitted into the asylum in 1897, 1 was discharged and 6 died.

The daily average number of patients was 43.

EDUCATION.

14. The Inspector of Schools furnishes the following returns :—

21 aided primary schools with 1,296 scholars (681 boys and 615 girls), school fees £558, Government contributions £1,108.

Three aided secondary schools with 108 scholars (67 boys and 41 girls), school fees £355, Government contributions £116.

In addition to two garrison schools and one dock-yard school there are about 30 other primary schools not receiving any aid from Colonial funds.

There are five secondary schools in the Colony receiving no Government grants.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

15. The returns from the Observatory at Prospect Camp, which is 151 feet above sea level, shew as follows :—

Mean atmospheric pressure for the year, 30·132 inches ; mean temperature of the air, 70·0 degrees ; mean relative humidity, 84 per cent. ; mean hourly velocity of the wind, 8·8 miles ; total amount of rainfall during the year, 59·40 inches ; difference of rainfall from average of past seven years, 4·89 inches less; number of days during the year on which rain fell, 181.

BOARD OF TRADE STATISTICS.

16. The usual table prepared for the Board of Trade statistics is given below :—

Population.

—	Males.	Females.	Total.
1896 ...	7,565	8,387	15,952
1897 ...	7,618	8,480	16,098

	1896.	1897.
	£	£
Gross amount of public revenue	34,256	35,965
Gross amount of public expenditure	34,717	35,704
Customs revenue	26,717	28,117
Public debt	46,600	46,100
	Tons.	Tons.
Total tonnage of vessels entered and cleared	391,475	346,538
Tonnage of British vessels entered and cleared	338,312	300,954
Tonnage of foreign vessels entered and cleared	53,163	45,584
Tonnage of sailing vessels entered and cleared	40,339	27,520
Tonnage of steam vessels entered and cleared	351,136	319,018
	£	£
Value of total imports (including specie)...	304,970	323,148
Value of total imports of gold and silver, bullion and specie (so far as can be stated).	75	74
Value of imports from the United Kingdom (including specie).	90,025	95,424
Value of total exports (including specie)	108,613	127,703
Value of total exports of gold and silver bullion and specie (so far as can be stated).	7,550	4,621
Value of total exports to the United Kingdom (including specie).	2,853	3,519
Amount of expenditure from loans on public works ...	21,141	nil.

I have, &c.,
J. TUCKER,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

To His Excellency
Lieut.-General G. Digby Barker, C.B.,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief,
Bermuda.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 218.

CEYLON.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1896.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 187.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
November 1897.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 1-3, Great St. Thomas Apostle, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, Hanover Street, Edinburgh, and
90, West Nile Street, Glasgow; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., Limited, 104, Grafton Street, Dublin.

1897.

[C.—8650-16] *Price* 1*d*.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
183	Mauritius and Rodrigues	1894 and 1895
184	British Honduras	1895
185	Lagos	"
186	Basutoland	1895–96
187	Ceylon	1895
188	British Guiana	1895–96
189	Gold Coast	1895
190	Jamaica	1895–96
191	Canada	1895
192	Bermuda	1896
193	Bahamas	"
194	Zululand	"
195	Gambia	"
196	Malta	"
197	British New Guinea	1895–96
198	Turks and Caicos Islands	1896
199	Barbados	"
200	Leeward Islands	1895
201	Trinidad and Tobago	1896
202	Gibraltar	"
203	Fiji (Trade)	"
204	Strait Settlements	1895
205	Do. do.	1896
206	Falkland Islands	"
207	British Honduras	"
208	Sierra Leone	"
209	Grenada	"
210	Hong Kong	"
211	St. Lucia	"
212	St. Vincent	"
213	St. Helena	"
214	Seychelles	"
215	Mauritius	"
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1897
217	Figi	1896

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.

No. 218.

CEYLON.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 187 of this Series.)

GOVERNOR SIR WEST RIDGEWAY TO MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Queen's Cottage, Nuwara Eliya, Ceylon,
24th September, 1897.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward herewith the usual report on the Blue Book of Ceylon for the year 1896.

I have, &c.,
WEST RIDGEWAY.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF CEYLON FOR THE YEAR 1896.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The revenue of the Colony for the year 1896 amounted to Rs. 21,974,573, and the expenditure to Rs. 21,237,859. The revenue thus shows an increase of nearly a million rupees over that of 1895, and two and a half millions over that of 1894. The actual figures for 1894 and 1895 were :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
1894	19,485,310	20,342,899
1895	20,982,808	20,899,713

2. The expenditure exceeded that of 1895 by Rs. 338,146, but was Rs. 736,714 less than the revenue of the year. The principal increase is on account of the Medical Department and Miscellaneous Services, which include acquisition of land by

14896*—75—10/97 Wt 20613 D & S—5 (B)

Government, expenses connected with Commissions, and subsidy to the Ceylon Steamship Company. The military expenditure increases with the revenue.

PUBLIC DEBT.

3. The sterling debt of the Colony amounted on 31st December to £3,519,503, as against £3,541,223 on 31st December, 1895.

4. The silver debt of the Colony amounted to Rs. 3,290,595, as against Rs. 3,302,004 on 31st December, 1895.

CUSTOMS AND SHIPPING.

5. The total value of the trade of the Colony for 1896 was Rs. 175,629,442, as against Rs. 169,097,766 in 1895 and Rs. 157,836,662 in 1894, showing a steadily increasing volume of trade :—

	1895.	1896.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports	84,756,309	87,788,085
Exports	84,541,457	87,841,357
Total ...	169,097,766	175,629,442

6. The principal imports and exports compared with those of 1895 are as follows :—

Imports.

		1895.	1896.
Rice	bus.	8,722,737	7,594,413
Cotton goods	Rs.	5,960,856	5,992,367
Malt liquor, wines, &c.	,,	1,664,751	1,872,869
Metals and metalware	,,	2,469,924	2,680,771
Coal and coke	tons.	326,297	373,459
Specie	Rs.	8,012,607	10,704,497
Machinery	,,	796,917	831,867

Exports.

——		1895.	1896.
Coffee	cwt.	66,617	23,122
Cinchona	lb.	919,820	1,377,180
Tea	„	98,581,060	110,095,193
Cacao...	cwt.	27,522	33,890
Cardamoms	lb.	435,090	463,233
Cocoanut products :—			
Coir stuffs...	cwt.	185,147	161,990
Poonac	„	172.401	148.963
Copperah	„	40,498	57,581
Cocoanut oil	gal.	419,242	390,883
Arrack	„	118,745	117,376
Cinnamon	lb.	3,052,000	3,182,823
Citronella oil	oz.	15,007,730	19,492,669
Plumbago	cwt.	326,754	361,061
Tobacco	„	53,240	61,881

7. The decrease in the import of intoxicating liquors, which was the subject of comment in previous reports, has ceased, and this year's returns show a large increase in consumption of spirits, malt liquors, and wine.

8. The imports of specie from India increased by over three million rupees. Last year there was a decrease of nearly two million rupees.

9. The decrease in the import of rice is 1,128,324 bushels. It has been due to the exceptionally large importation in 1895, owing to cheapness of price.

10. In respect of exports there was a large increase in the amount of tea exported, which is now over 100,000,000 lb.

11. There is a large increase in the export to the Australian colonies, which now amounts to over 11,000,000 lb., an increase of over 2,000,000 lb. as compared with last year.

Coffee shows a decrease, the exports being 23,122 cwt. in 1896, the total value being nearly Rs. 1,721,133.

The value of the various products of the cocoanut palm was Rs. 11,178,077, as against Rs. 11,106,246 in 1895. Cacao, cinnamon, cardamoms, and cinchona show an increase in quantity and value.

12. The year showed a decrease in the value of exports to the United Kingdom and to foreign countries, and an increase to British colonies.

The increase over 1895 to British colonies was large. To the mother country and to foreign countries the decrease has been slight.

The total value of goods exported to the United Kingdom was Rs. 56,931,531·52, as against Rs. 57,475,269·16 in 1895. To other countries it was Rs. 21,219,228, as against Rs. 20,020,287 last year.

Shipping.

13. The figures are as follows :—

——	1895.		1896.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Entered	3,842	3,341,198	3,953	3,526,323
Cleared	3,826	3,201,999	3,983	3,553,355
Total	7,668	6,543,197	7,936	7,079,678

COLOMBO HARBOUR.

14. The expenditure for the year 1896 amounted to Rs. 2,057,146, as against Rs. 2,603,183 in 1895. Of this sum Rs. 31,064 from the votes of 1895 and Rs. 81,810 from the votes for 1896 was spent out of revenue on the maintenance of the South-west Breakwater. Rs. 1,250,405 was spent on harbour extension.

The total expenditure on the harbour from the beginning of the South-west Breakwater, in 1873, has been Rs. 15,063,281.

STATEMENT showing the REVENUE and EXPENDITURE, exclusive of Payments from the LOAN of the HARBOUR, during 1896.

REVENUE.	Rs.	c.	EXPENDITURE.	Rs.	c.
Harbour dues	833,609	78	Principal repaid to Public Works Loan Commissioners	19,697	99
Surplus Overtime Fees transferred to Harbour Fund	—		Interest paid to do.	92,058	96
Pilotage	57,445	0	Interest on Debentures, &c.	322,789	91
Rent of Reclamation Ground	11,169	22	Sinking Fund on Debentures, &c. ...	76,359	19
Single Warehouse Rent	200,078	49	Interest, &c., on Debentures under Ordinances Nos. 4 of 1892 and 17 of 1893	300,738	0
Rent of Wharf and Warehouse Company's Warehouses	5,040	0	Charges incidental to management, lighting, &c., of the Port of Colombo	214,351	42
Rent of Boat Company's Offices, &c., due to Harbour Fund	4,809	0			
Sundries	2,786	90			
Total	1,114,998	39	Total	1,135,995	47

PUBLIC WORKS.

15. The total expenditure of the Public Works Department for 1896 amounted to Rs. 3,437,862·47, classified as follows :—

	Rs.	c.
Establishment	395,197	96

Recurrent Expenditure.

Departmental and miscellaneous charges... ...	210,024	45
Upkeep of roads, bridges, canals, and irrigation works	1,420,427	22
Repairs to buildings	183,973	88

Extraordinary Expenditure.

New works and buildings	251,133	19
Alterations and additions to buildings	164,504	7
New roads and improvement of roads and canals	409,693	21
New bridges	154,471	15
New irrigation works	170,220	72
Lands acquired	1,709	60
Miscellaneous	76,507	2

16. 3,492·89 miles of roads and the public buildings and other works were maintained in satisfactory order.

SURVEY DEPARTMENT.

17. The expenditure of the Department amounted to Rs. 447,674, as compared with Rs. 472,403 in 1895.

18. The total revenue from Land Sales was Rs. 443,797, as compared with Rs. 438,870 in 1895.

19. The extent of land alienated by the Crown was 14,172 acres, as against 17,027 in 1895. Of this area 4,365 acres were sold to Europeans at an average rate of Rs. 28·12 per acre, whilst 9,807 acres were sold to natives at an average rate of Rs. 26·93 per acre.

FOREST DEPARTMENT.

20. The receipts amounted to Rs. 472,980, as against Rs. 417,375 in 1895. The expenditure was Rs. 463,375, as against Rs. 426,799.

21. The past year shows a small surplus of Rs. 9,605 in the working of the Department. If the value of free grants and the excess of outstandings due this year over that due in 1895 are taken into consideration, the balance in favour of the year amounts to Rs. 16,664. The year has been characterised by the commencement of a re-organization of the Department, which has for its object the control of the reserved forests under the Conservator of Forests and a special staff.

RAILWAYS.

22. The receipts in 1896 amounted to Rs. 6,777,832, as compared with Rs. 6,233,709 in 1895, an increase of Rs. 544,123, or over 8 per cent.

The expenditure was Rs. 3,087,790, as against Rs. 3,440,705 in 1895. The large decrease was due to the smaller expenditure on new works. The working expenses are therefore 45·55 per cent. of the receipts.

The profit on the total capital cost of the railway—Rs. 57,486,021—is between six and seven per cent.

23. The total length of the line open for traffic on December 31, 1895, was 297⅛ miles. This includes the new section from Galle to Matara, which was only opened in December, 1895.

24. The number of passengers carried was 5,683,957, an increase of more than 860,000 over last year. The goods traffic for 1896 was 421,129 tons as compared with 411,915 tons in 1895, an increase of 2 per cent.

POST OFFICE.

25. The receipts of the Post Office are calculated at Rs. 768,374·32. It is not possible to obtain exact figures, on account of the 5-cent stamp, which is used both for revenue and postal purposes.

26. The expenditure amounted to Rs. 914,739·83, as against Rs. 818,177 in 1895. The increase is due mainly to the payment for the telephone plant taken over from a private company, for cost of new telephone materials, and expenses in connection with the new telephone system generally.

27. The deposits in the Post Office Savings Bank rose from Rs. 837,228 at the end of 1895 to Rs. 1,006,971 on December 31, 1896, a still larger increase than that commented upon last year as the largest hitherto.

28. The total number of post, telegraph, and telephone offices is 364.

CEYLON. 1896

29. The value of money orders issued was Rs. 6,292,199·97, as against Rs. 5,503,507·27 in 1895.

30. The number of paid telegrams was 195,648 in 1896, an increase of 80,059 on the figures for 1895.

LEGISLATION.

31. Ordinances were passed providing for the regulation and inspection of mines and machinery, the decision by one Supreme Court Judge of appeals in Courts of Requests cases, and empowering District Judges who are also Police Magistrates to dispense with committals in cases triable before the District Court. Others dealt with pilgrimages, branch roads, the repression of crime, and to the law relating to the sale of goods.

32. Among the Ordinances amended during the year were the Municipal Councils' Ordinances, Tolls, and Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund.

VITAL STATISTICS.

33. The subjoined table shows the proportion of births and deaths registered per thousand of the population for the six years 1891 to 1896 :—

——	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
Births	31·8	29·8	30·8	32·5	31·1	31·3
Deaths	28·5	27·2	29·1	27·3	27·1	24·7

34. The registered births exceeded the deaths by 21,956, as compared with an excess of 13,179 in 1895.

35. The estimated total population of Ceylon on December 31, 1896, was 3,335,909.

INDIAN IMMIGRANTS.

36. The arrivals of immigrant coolies amounted to 128,350, the largest number in any one year since 1877, when the coffee enterprise was at its zenith. The departures were 93,281, showing an excess of arrivals over departures of 35,069.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

37. The general health of the people was satisfactory.

38. There were reported 106 cases of cholera with 94 deaths up to December 31, 1896. 17 cases of smallpox were reported, of which 3 proved fatal. The figures were, for 1894, 10 cases and 1 death; for 1895, 23 cases and 2 deaths. Fewer cases of malarial fever were reported than in the previous year. Although as usual it prèvailed to some extent in a few districts, especially after the monsoon rains, there were no outbreaks calling for special active measures.

39. There were 282,287 persons vaccinated or re-vaccinated, as against 158,604 in 1895.

40. The number of hospitals and dispensaries open in 1895 and 1896 respectively was as follows :—

——	1895.	1896.
Civil hospitals	32	32
Medical aid hospitals	15	15
Field hospitals	7	7
Immigrant hospitals	6	6
Dispensaries	211	213
Asylums	2	2
Lying-in home	1	1

41. The death-rate of all sick treated in hospitals was 9·66 in 1896, as against 9·62 in 1895.

42. The expenditure of the Civil Medical Department amounted to Rs. 1,063,525·03, as against Rs. 1,046,257 in 1895.

43. One of the main features of the working of the Department has been the extension of the dispensary system. In 1895, 744,365 persons in all were treated; in 1896, 682,806 were treated. The system of estate dispensaries continued to work with satisfactory results.

44. The cost of working the Medical Aid Ordinance was as follows :—

	Rs.	c.
Total cost in 1896	269,457	4
Receipts from estates	85,696	50
Export duty	104,627	90
Deficit...	138,338	92

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

45. The following table shows the number of cases instituted and of persons convicted before police magistrates during 1894, 1895, and 1896 :—

Year.	Cases instituted.	Persons charged.	Persons convicted.
1894	56,097	99,036	18,539
1895	54,136	96,341	20,010
1896	54,612	91,748	23,614

46. In the District and Supreme Courts the figures are as follows :—

Year.	District Courts.		Supreme Court.	
	Convictions.	Acquittals.	Convictions.	Acquittals.
1894	536	493	420	307
1895	445	411	255	128
1896	598	554	355	246

47. The results of trials for murder and culpable homicide not amounting to murder were as follows :—

Year.	Number of Persons tried.	Number convicted of Murder.	Number convicted of Culpable Homicide.	Number convicted of Grievous Hurt and Hurt	Number acquitted.	Number executed.
1894	136	40	44	—	52	27
1895	129	24	52	—	53	24
1896	168	38	26	32	72	27

48. These figures do not point to any general increase in crime, but rather the reverse.

49. The number of murders and culpable homicides is, however, on the increase, and the inquest returns for 1895 give the extraordinarily large number of 196 homicides, much the largest on record, the previous highest being 160 in 1894.

50. The average for the last five years is 142, as against 132 in the previous five years.

PRISONS.

51. The total number of admissions for 1896 was 5,936, as compared with 6,242 in 1895. Deducting road defaulters (648), the number of admissions and the daily average (1,996) were the lowest on record.

52. For the sixth year in succession, the daily average of men imprisoned on conviction for offences shows a steady decline. The figures are :—

1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
3,509	3,353	2,684	2,495	2,381	2,192	1,996

So that the prison population has been reduced by more than a third in that period.

53. The number of admissions on committals from higher courts is 854, which is higher than that of 1895, but a great portion of the increase is accounted for by the operation of the Habitual Criminals' Ordinance and the introduction of anthropometrical identification.

54. The expenditure for the year amounted to Rs. 426,552, as against Rs. 441,610 in 1895. The last three years have been the lowest since 1884. The actual cost of dieting was less than in any previous year in the decade from 1884 to 1896. Hospital charges were unfortunately much the highest in the same period, being no less than Rs. 27,866. The next highest figure was Rs. 26,397.

55. The health of the prisoners showed a great improvement, the death-rate being 39 per thousand in 1896 against 65 in 1895.

56. The health of the prisoners in the convict establishment was also more satisfactory, the death-rate falling from 72 per thousand in 1895 to 37 per thousand in 1896.

57. The daily sick per thousand of the total daily average strength in the Island was 100·19 in 1895 and 86·60 in 1896.

58. There was a decrease in the number of punishments inflicted on prisoners. A large number of prisoners are now employed in Mutwal and Mahara jails in connection with the new North-east Breakwater.

EDUCATION.

59. During 1896 there was an increase of nearly 4,451 in the number of scholars in schools presented for examination.

60. In 1895 the number was 134,481, as against 138,932 in 1896. In 1887 the number was 95,560 only, showing an increase in the decade of over 68 per cent.

In 1870, the first year in which figures are available, the total was 16,927 only.

61. In point of attendance there was also improvement, the number of scholars in schools reporting to the Department being 175,658 in 1896 as compared with 169,834 in 1895.

62. The proportion which the number of children attending school bears to the population for 1895 and 1896 is as follows :—

Province.	1895.	1896.
Western	1 in 11	1 in 11
Central	1 in 25	1 in 25
Northern	1 in 11	1 in 12
Southern	1 in 17	1 in 16
Eastern	1 in 18	1 in 17
North-western	1 in 31	1 in 25
North-central	1 in 38	1 in 36
Uva	1 in 45	1 in 52
Sabaragamuwa	1 in 35	1 in 33

63. The annexed tables give the comparative returns of attendance in Government, grant-in-aid, unaided, and pansala schools for 1895 and 1896, together with the average attendance and average cost to Government of the scholars in Government and aided schools :—

	Number of Schools in		Attended by					
	1895.	1896.	Boys in 1895.	Boys in 1896.	Girls in 1895.	Girls in 1896	Total in 1895.	Total in 1896.
Government schools ..	477	474	37,552	37,825	6,700	6,713	44,252	44,538
Grant-in-aid schools ..	1,096	1,130	61,843	65,581	28,386	28,819	90,229	94,400
Unaided private schools	700	904	22,031	23,491	6,658	7,198	28,689	30,689
Pansala schools	1,542	1,364	6,664	6,031	—	—	6,664	6,031
Total ..	3,815	3,872	128,090	132,928	41,744	42,730	169,834	175,658

	Average Number of Scholars per School.		Average Cost to Government per Boy.		Average Cost to Government per girl.	
	In 1895.	In 1896.	In 1895.	In 1896.	In 1895.	In 1896.
Government schools	93	94	Rs. c. 4 91	Rs. c. 4 88	Rs. c. 3 65	Rs c. 3 67
Grant-in-aid schools	82	84	3 10 per scholar	3 29 per scholar	Boys and disting	girls not uished
Unaided private schools	40	34	—	—	—	—
Pansala schools	4	4	—	—	—	—

64. The Department of Public Instruction has under its control the Technical College and the School of Agriculture, to which has been added a School of Forestry. At present the Conservator of Forests delivers a course of lectures in both theoretical and practical forestry. Competent instruction in mathematics, forest laws, and surveying is also provided under the direction of the Conservator.

65. A dairy farm is attached to the School of Agriculture, and last year's working proved satisfactory, showing a profit of over Rs. 3,000 on a capital expenditure of Rs. 31,000.

66. The expenditure on education in 1896 was Rs. 597,388, as against Rs. 597,388 in 1895.

E. NOEL WALKER,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, September 27, 1897.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 206.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1896.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 175.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
September 1897.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 1-3, Great St. Thomas Apostle, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, Hanover Street, Edinburgh, and
90, West Nile Street, Glasgow; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., Limited, 104, Grafton Street, Dublin.

1897.

[C.—8650.—4] *Price* 1½*d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No	Colony.	Year.
176	St. Helena	1895
177	Bahamas...	„
178	Hong Kong	„
179	Windward Islands	„
180	Labuan	„
181	Trinidad and Tobago	„
182	Seychelles	„
183	Mauritius and Rodrigues	1894 and 1895
184	British Honduras	1895
185	Lagos	„
186	Basutoland	1895–96
187	Ceylon	1895
188	British Guiana	1895–96
189	Gold Coast	1895
190	Jamaica	1895–96
191	Canada	1895
192	Bermuda	1896
193	Bahamas	„
194	Zululand	„
195	Gambia	„
196	Malta	„
197	British New Guinea	1895–96
198	Turks and Caicos Islands	1896
199	Barbados	„
200	Leeward Islands	1895
201	Trinidad and Tobago	1896
202	Gibraltar	„
203	Fiji (Trade)	„
204	Straits Settlements	1895
205	Do. do.	1896

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.

No. 206.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 175 of this Series.)

ACTING GOVERNOR F. CRAIGIE HALKETT to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Stanley,
25th June, 1897.

SIR

I HAVE the honour to transmit a report, by the Acting Colonial Secretary, upon the Blue Book for last year.

I have, &c.,

F. CRAIGIE HALKETT,
Administrator.

REPORT ON THE FALKLAND ISLANDS BLUE BOOK FOR 1896.

Taxes, Duties, Fees and other sources of Revenue.

For general purposes there is no direct taxation. The only direct taxes are (1) Upon tenements in the township of Stanley, producing in all £70 per annum, which is appropriated to the liquidation of outlay incurred in and for the up-keep of fencing round the town itself, and (2) A tax of 1/12th of a penny per acre on land outside the town and used for pastoral purposes only.

This tax, which produces £800 per annum, is paid by the sheep farmers only, and is levied with the specific object of providing a staff and the requisite expenditure involved in eradicating the disease of Scab among sheep.

Both taxes are more likely to be lessened than increased; in the first case as the entire outlay becomes liquidated, and

14478*—75—8/97 Wt 20613 D & S—5 (B)

FALKLAND ISLANDS. 1896

up-keep alone remains to be provided, in the other, as the disease becomes more under control and eventually altogether disappears.

Duties are derived from—

1. Customs.
2. Auctions.
3. Licenses.
4. Port Harbour and Tonnage.

The first is by far the most important, providing as it does one quarter of the entire annual revenue. There are no export duties, and the import duties are levied only upon liquor and tobacco, the Colony being in other respects a free port.

2. Duties received on goods sold at auction are levied at the rate of 5 per cent. on spirituous liquors and 2½ per cent. on other articles. Receipts under this head are very limited.

3. Licenses are required for carrying on the business of publican, wholesale liquor dealer, billiard or bagatelle table keeper, dealers in tobacco, town and country, auctioneers, sealers, and from owners of dogs. They produce in the aggregate an annual revenue of three to four hundred pounds.

4. Dues comprise pilotage of 6s. per foot inwards and 3s. per foot outwards on draught of all vessels entering and clearing from the Port of Stanley, and tonnage on vessels arriving at a port of entry other than Stanley at the rate of 1s. per ton, but in no case exceeding £10 for one ship.

There are no light or other port dues.

The annual revenue from these sources ranges between one and two hundred pounds.

Fees, &c.

Under this head fall many minor receipts such as :—

Fees and charges payable in the Supreme and Police Courts of the Colony.
Fees for Marriage Licenses.
" " Registering births, &c.
" " Deeds (Registering).
" " Shipping seamen, &c.
" " Moving vessels in port.
" " Government Schools.
Rents of Government Warehouse.
" " Powder Magazine.
Sale of Water.
" " School materials.
Payment for Customs Officers.
" " Pilot boat.
" " Printed matter.
" " Private printing.

The total fees usually amount in the year to between four and five hundred pounds.

Other Sources of Revenue.

These are made up by:—

1. Interest on capital sums received by way of Deposits in the Government Savings Bank, and purchase monies of freehold Crown land sold.

   One sixth of the annual Revenue is derived from this source.

2. Post Office receipts derived from sale of Stamps and post cards; insufficient postage and commissions on Money Orders contribute alone £1,000 annually to General Revenue.

3. Rents of Government property and Crown Lands constitute the most important item in the Revenue of which they form nearly one moiety, or about £5,000 per annum.

4. Miscellaneous receipts are variable and practically unimportant. The chief items come from—

   Sale of ballast stone, &c.
   „ „ old Stores.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The Revenue received during the year amounted to £12,358 1s. 10d., or £338 more than was estimated.

Though satisfactory to that extent, the receipts fell short of those for 1895 by £160 14s. 8d., attributable to a falling off in the Customs duties which have been found to fluctuate in alternate years, according to the arrival within the year of large imports of dutiable articles.

The total Revenue for the past three years stands thus :—

1894 - - - -	£11,958
1895 - - - -	12,518
1896 - - - -	12,358

FALKLAND ISLANDS. 1896.

The following statement shows the receipts under their various heads during the past year :—

	£	s.	d.
Customs	2,804	15	11½
Port, &c., Dues	162	1	6
Licenses, &c.	439	11	6
Fees	645	12	6
Post Office	1,171	10	7½
Rents	4,916	8	5
Miscellaneous	148	11	8
Interest on Investments	2,069	9	8
	£12,358	1	10

The items showing an advance over the previous year are:—

	£	s.	d.
Port and Harbour, Dues of	24	18	0
Fees	153	4	11
Post Office	103	8	6½
Rents	35	18	11
Miscellaneous	103	14	2
Interest on Investments	226	16	2
	£648	0	8½

An amount of £2,037 was received on account of instalments due on purchase of freeholds, and was invested in the Land Account, which now stands at £17,159.

Expenditure.

The total expenditure for the year amounted to £13,569 9s. 4d., or £1,211 7s. 6d. in excess of the receipts ; £1,590 16s. 8d. beyond the amount Estimated, and £410 1s. 0d. in excess of 1895.

The various items of expenditure were :—

	£	s.	d.
Pensions	282	16	0
Governor	1,416	12	1
Colonial Secretary's Department	1,110	16	11
Customs	98	19	9
Audit	54	16	3½
Port and Marine	246	2	3
Legal	830	16	3½
Police	484	7	7½
Prisons	78	7	9

	£	s.	d.
Medical	576	5	8
Education	588	3	11
Ecclesiastical	517	19	6
Transport	210	16	6
Miscellaneous	382	15	8
Post Office	2,999	10	7
Public Works	2,151	10	7
Interest on Deposits	855	9	8
Drawbacks and Refunds	291	17	3
Survey	391	4	9

The estimated expenditure was exceeded under the following heads :—

	£	s.	d.
Governor	2	12	1
Colonial Secretary's Department	52	16	11
Audit	0	12	3½
Legal	58	12	3½
Police	51	7	7½
Transport	100	16	6
Miscellaneous	12	15	8
Public Works	1,131	10	7
Interest	55	9	8
Drawbacks	241	17	3
Survey	41	4	9
	£1,749	15	7½

A saving over the estimated expenditure was effected under—

	£	s.	d.
Pensions	30	0	8
Customs	26	0	3
Port and Marine	8	17	9
Prisons	44	12	3
Medical	2	2	4
Education	46	16	1
Ecclesiastical	0	0	6
Post Office	0	9	1
	£158	18	11

	£	s.	d.
Expended over Estimate	1,749	15	7½
„ below „	158	18	11
Net Expended over Estimate	1,590	16	8

FALKLAND ISLANDS. 1896.

The expenditure for each of the past three years was :—

	£	s.	d.
1894 - - - - -	12,395	19	7
1895 - - - - -	13,159	8	4
1896 - - - - -	13,569	9	4½

A comparison of the items paid in 1896 with those of the previous year shows a larger expenditure in 1896 for—

	£	s.	d.
Governor - - - - -	22	10	7
Colonial Secretary's Dept. - -	1	9	4
Legal Dept. - - - - -	232	4	3½
Education - - - - -	75	9	3
Ecclesiastical - - - - -	56	7	2
Transport - - - - -	110	9	8
Post Office - - - - -	728	10	2
Interest - - - - - -	47	3	5
Drawbacks - - - - -	69	0	3
	£1,343	4	1½

But a diminished expenditure in the Departments of—

	£	s.	d.
Pensions - - - - -	50	18	4
Customs - - - - -	93	4	7
Audit - - - - -	10	18	8½
Port and Marine - - -	115	7	6
Police - - - - -	83	5	3½
Prisons - - - - -	18	13	1
Medical - - - - -	28	8	9
Miscellaneous - - - -	396	0	0
Public Works - - - -	125	2	0
Survey - - - - -	11	4	10
	£933	3	1

The most noteworthy addition to the annual expenditure was caused by the completion of a Mail contract giving a much

improved Mail service with England, that is every three weeks, instead of, as formerly, once in each calendar month.

This contract involves an annual subsidy of £2,500 as against £1,800 paid under the former conditions.

Further additional items of importance were the salaries of the newly-appointed Stipendiary Magistrate and of two itinerant teachers for the W. Falkland Island provided for in the estimates for the past year, and the outlay required for the erection of Government quarters at Fox Bay for the Magistrate and the Police.

Assets & Liabilities.

This annual return shows the totals as—

	£	s.	d.
Assets - - - - -	56,432	18	6
Liabilities - - - -	40,148	2	7
	£16,284	15	11

Among the assets is included the amount invested in the Land Sales Account, £16,932 16s. 1d. Among the liabilities are included two new items of deposits created by the passing of laws imposing a special tax for the eradication of Scab, and for the Administration of Intestate Estates.

The increased annual subsidy of £700 demanded by an improved Mail Service and larger deposits to the extent of £779 made in the Government Savings Bank contribute to swell the total of the liabilities over what was shown in the previous year.

Investments in the hands of the Crown Agents show a large increase over the last Annual Statement thus :—

	1895.	1896.
Land Sales Account - -	£14,895	£16,932
Savings Bank - - -	33,691	34,222
Surplus - - - -	1,041	1,441

and an account opened in the year for Intestate Estates, £542.

Advances due to the Colony have increased, from £326 in 1895 to £436 in 1896.

FALKLAND ISLANDS. 1896.

The following is a statement of the transactions of the Bank since its establishment on 1st April, 1888, to 30th September, 1896.

Year.	Accounts opened.	Accounts closed.	Number of Deposits.	Number of Withdrawals.	Amount of Deposits with Interest Accrued.			Amount of Withdrawals.		
					£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1st April, 1888, to 30th Sept., 1888.	32		60		4,201	1	5			
1888-1889	67	7	150	37	13,809	8	8	2,871	5	10
1889-1890	56	21	188	93	8,972	7	4	6,300	19	5
1890-1891	70	30	256	182	8,577	2	2	4,760	1	6
1891-1892	62	37	291	103	8,668	5	9	5,355	9	2
1892-1893	60	32	250	112	11,923	1	4	6,790	3	5
1893-1894	68	38	325	123	10,424	17	3	7,817	0	11
1894-1895	64	32	312	148	9,355	6	4	7,620	14	11
1895-1896	58	32	387	123	9,911	6	9½	7,609	1	5½
	537	229	2,219	921	85,842	17	0½	49,124	16	7½

On the 30th September, 1896, when the financial year closed, there were 308 Depositors with a balance of £36,718 0s. 5d., or an average of £119 4s. 0d., standing to the credit of each account.

The Depositors were credited with £855 12s. 2d. in interest during the year, being £47 6s. 10d. in excess of that credited in the previous year, while the balance of deposits over withdrawals was £2,302 5s. 4d.

On the 30th September, 1896, the Investments on account of the Bank stood thus :—

	£	s.	d.
Consols - - - - -	5,038	8	4
Inscribed Stock - - -	28,684	0	8
Uninvested - - - -	2,995	11	5
	£36,718	0	5

Interest upon invested deposits brought in a Revenue of £1,102 13s. 10d., from which interest at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum, amounting to £855 12s. 2d., was credited or paid to Depositors, and £20 5s. 0d. paid in fees for the annual Audit of the Bank, leaving a profit to Revenue of £226 16s. 8d.

Dr. FALKLAND ISLANDS SAVINGS BANK CAPITAL ACCOUNT, 30th September, 1896. *Cr.*

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
30th Sept., invested in Securities - -			33,722	9	0	On Deposit 30th Sept., 1895 - - - -				34,415	15	1
Balance uninvested - - - - -			2,995	11	5	Deposits 1st Oct., 1895, to 30th Sept., 1896 - -	9,055	14	7½			
						Withdrawals - - -	7,609	1	5½			
										1,446	13	2
						Interest 1st. Oct., 1895, to 30th Sept., 1896				855	12	2
			£36,718	0	5					£36,718	0	5

FALKLAND ISLANDS PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT, 30th September, 1896.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Interest on Investments - - - -			1,102	13	10	Interest paid and credited to Depositors, 1st Oct., 1895, to 30th Sept., 1896 -				855	12	2
						Expenses of Audit - - - - - -				20	5	0
										875	17	2
						Profit on year's transactions - - -				226	16	8
			£1,102	13	10					£1,102	13	10

Checked, audited, and found correct.
26th November, 1896.

T. A. THOMPSON,
H. SCHLOTTFELDT,
} Commissioners.

14478*—5

Public Works.

During the year the Government buildings in the West Falklands were brought to a completion.

Ecclesiastical.

Appended will be found the Annual Report of the Colonial Chaplain.

His Lordship the Bishop of Falkland Islands paid the Colony a visit and held a confirmation.

The number of clergy in charge of the several denominations remains as heretofore, though their personnel have undergone alteration. The number of communicants shows no appreciable change.

Defences.

The local Rifle Volunteer Corps well maintained its strength and efficiency.

Her Majesty's ships belonging to the S.E. Coast of America squadron paid prolonged visits to the Colony in order to complete their annual small and big gun practice, and the Imperial Rifle Range on the outskirts of Stanley was definitely approved and placed in order for use.

The presence of these ships (though after all natural enough, seeing that this is the only English territory on their Station) is very beneficial as well to the material as to the intellectual and social welfare of the colonists, who are, as it were, dug out of themselves and awakened to interests a little beyond the limited purview of the Islands themselves.

Population.

This remains practically stationary. The totals for Stanley and the Camp beyond show as follows, compared with 1895 :—

	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Stanley	356	338	694	356	338	694
Camp	817	442	1,259	842	456	1298
Total	1,173	780	1,953	1,198	794	1,992

The birth rate for 1896 was 23 per 1,000 as compared with 24 for the previous year, while the mortality showed 7 as against 5 per 1,000.

The entire population stands at ·306 per square mile of the area of the Colony.

Legislation.

Eleven Ordinances were passed within the year.

Nos. 1, 5, and 8 dealing with Customs have since been repealed.

No. 2 regulated the law as to Conspiracy, and the protection of property.

Nos. 3 and 11 provide for the administration of unrepresented Estates in the Colony.

Nos. 4 and 9 provide for the financial service of the Colony.

No. 6 relates to fencing, &c.

No. 10 amending the Scab Ordinance deals with the protection of Sheep from infection.

No. 7 requires records to be kept of the sale of liquor by farmers and others, and regulates the traffic in public houses.

Industries.

The staple industry—sheep farming, derived distinct benefit from the watchful care of the recently-appointed Inspectors of Stock, whose efforts were such that it was by the close of last year confidently hoped that a few more months would see the absolute eradication of the disease of Scab among the flocks.

Greater care was taken pursuant to the advice of these experts in the selection of Stud rams, a large special importation of which was made from New Zealand; in the separation and classification of Sheep, and generally in measures having for their object the improvement of the breed; and extensive additional fencing was erected throughout the Camp.

The report of the Chief Inspector of Stock is appended.

Imports and Exports.

With a population varying little year by year and in the absence of any fresh departure by way of discovery or the opening up of new industries it is not to be expected that any great variation will take place in exports and imports from one year to another.

FALKLAND ISLANDS. 1896.

The subjoined table shows the relative values for the past three years of imports and exports from and to the various countries having commercial relations with this Colony.

Country.	Imports.			Exports.		
	1894.	1895.	1896.	1894.	1895.	1896.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ...	54,500	64,248	62,641	130,071	122,988	132,194
Germany...	759	720	441	—	—	—
Uruguay	1,712	3,615	1,705	—	—	—
Chili	4,232	3,243	5,198	1,160	—	—
Argentine	1,067	—	—	570	—	—
	62,270	71,826	69,985	131,801	122,988	132,194

With the exception of 3,360 live sheep value £1,008 exported to the neighbouring mainland of Chili all exports went to the United Kingdom.

Facile princeps among these was wool, which totalled 4,187,628 lbs., valued at £112,139 sterling.

The remaining exports comprised :—

76,209 Sheepskins	value - -	£11,431
636,740 lbs. tallow	„ - -	5,305
836 hides	„ - -	627
727 Seal Skins	„ - -	1,090

and a few minor articles.

The articles imported in part return may be classified as follows :—

From United Kingdom.

	£
Coal - - - - - - -	1,385
Wearing apparel, haberdashery - -	10,082
Furniture, glass, hardware - - -	7,409
Groceries - - - - - -	14,249
Live Stock and fodder - - - -	3,268
Building materials - - - - -	5,236
Liquor - - - - - - -	5,737
Tobacco - - - - - - -	1,563

From Germany.

	£
Groceries	254
Beer	65
Tobacco	50

From Uruguay.

Cereals	1,000
Fruit and Vegetables	500
Oil	100

From Chili.

Cereals	2,000
Fruit and Vegetables	400
Groceries	100
Fencing	750
Live Stock, Horses	1,150

Mails.

Postal communication was carried on throughout the year with places beyond the Colony by Steamships of the German subsidized Kosmos Line, and between Stanley and outlying parts of the Colony by a local subsidized Schooner every three weeks, at a total cost of £2,950.

Compared with the previous year the transactions of the Post Office show :—

	1895.	1896.
Sale of Stamps	£ 938	£1,043
Sale of Money Orders	6,007	5,578

Shipping.

During the year ten vessels put into Port Stanley in distress. On the 14th May an American ship, the " City of Philadelphia," in attempting to enter Port, struck the Billy rock off Cape Pembroke Lighthouse, and went down with all hands before any assistance could be rendered.

FALKLAND ISLANDS. 1896.

The following table shows the number, nationality, and tonnage of Steam and Sailing ships which entered and cleared in 1895 and 1896 :—

Steam Ships.

	1895.				1896.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Germany ..	14	26,093	14	26,093	20	36,339	20	36,339
England ..	1	1,893	1	1,893	1	3,528	1	3,528
Total ..	15	27,986	15	27,986	21	39,867	21	39,867

Sailing Ships.

	1895.				1896.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered		Cleared.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
England ..	17	10,801	12	7,325	8	6,606	6	4,278
Germany ..	1	1,603	1	1,603	—	—	—	—
United States	1	60	1	60	1	1,498	3	4,782
Chili	1	358	1	358	6	1,036	5	589
Norway ..	1	1,382	1	363	—	—	—	—
					Peru 2	3,528	Mexico 1	477
					Italy 1	1,954	Barbds. 1	493
					Fdly. I. 3	1,505	France 1	1,954
					Brazil 1	302	W. Ind. 2	931
Total ..	21	14,204	16	9,709	22	16,429	19	13,504

Education.

The Ordinance, passed in 1895, regulating attendance at school has borne good fruit, as shown by the attendance rolls scheduled in the report of the Inspector of Schools appended hereto.

The instruction imparted in the schools remains elementary, and the absence of higher education is to be regretted.

This will be attained as the Colony progresses, and an improvement takes place in the material condition of its inhabitants.

It is a matter of profound satisfaction that the appointment of two itinerant Schoolmasters for the West Island became an accomplished fact during the year.

Satisfactory reports have been received from these teachers of their reception on all sides, of the alacrity shown by the little folk to attend school, and of the progress made in instruction.

General.

In concluding this Report, I may justly be pardoned for once more dwelling upon the important strategic position occupied by these distant Islands for Imperial Naval purposes, as well for a depôt for coal and provisioning, as for offence and defence.

Public attention in England has long had a tendency to stop short at the River Plate with the result that gradually, but none the less surely, has the English been supplanted by the German merchant along the entire West Coast of S. America.

The prompt, courteous and valuable services rendered by ships of Her Majesty's squadron to vessels in distress should not be allowed to pass without recognition.

But for these much valuable property must inevitably have been lost, while still more valuable lives would have been gravely jeopardized.

CHARLES W. HILL,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,

Falkland Islands,

June, 1897.

FALKLAND ISLANDS. 1896.

STOCK REPORT, 1896.

The year 1896 has shown great improvement in every way as regards stock.

The introduction of the Scab Ordinance and the formation of a Stock Department has had a good effect, for no doubt the fact that every station is visited periodically by an Inspector has caused farmers to improve their way of working in many small details. The Inspectors carry ideas from one farm to another and farmers who are anxious to improve their stations adopt the best ideas.

It has been found necessary to amend the Scab Ordinance by reducing the period during which Scab had not been seen in flocks or dipping taken place from six months to three.

A period of 12 months, dating from the time that a flock is declared Scabby, is allowed by the original Ordinance for cleaning the flock, that is to say, that no traces of scab may be found or any dipping take place during the second six months of the twelve, thereby allowing the farmer six months only for working. At this rate it was found that flocks could not be cleansed and the law was amended, giving nine months for working and the remaining three for watching the flocks to ascertain whether the Scab had been got under.

Four prosecutions have taken place during the year under the Ordinance, three on the East Island and one on the West Falkland, the maximum penalty being inflicted in each case. His Excellency the Governor has, however, reduced the fine to one-fourth on condition that the flocks are clean within a further six months.

Out of 20 stations put in quarantine 13 have been declared clean, and it is most likely that during the present month two more will receive clean certificates.

Owing to the period of quarantine on so many stations expiring at the same time, it was found advisable to appoint extra assistant inspectors for short periods.

Last year was marked by a large importation of stud rams direct from New Zealand, principally for the East Falkland, the total number imported being 241, namely :—

127 Romney Marsh.
112 Lincolns.
2 English Leicesters.

It is pleasing to note that the importers are thoroughly satisfied with these rams, and provided that care is taken in the selection of ewes, the importation should result in course of time in great improvement of the flocks.

Two farmers on two of the small Islands were sufficiently enterprising to import also from New Zealand a small quantity of Cocksfoot grass seed. It is to be hoped that the experiment will prove successful as the dry portions of the Camp here could certainly be improved. Other stock imported was about 110 horses from Patagonia, one Devon bull, and three Berkshire pigs from England.

During 1896 there was not any export of frozen carcasses. The Inspector of Stock, Mr. Mowat, paid a visit to London last winter to endeavour to find out whether satisfactory arrangements could be made for selling Falkland Island frozen meat in London. I do not know whether it is likely that there will be a large export in 1897 ; probably not unless there is a considerable rise in prices in London. At present prices for frozen mutton, it is a question whether boiling down does not pay as well, if not better. To make frozen mutton pay, it is necessary to breed the sheep up to a certain standard. It is not sufficient that the sheep should be large and heavy ; quality is the first consideration, and some time must elapse before Falkland Island sheep reach the standard.

The average of lambing this season is according to all accounts better than last year ; the clip is heavier, although cold and bad weather at the beginning of the season prevented the rise in the wool.

I am glad to say there has been a great improvement in the gathering of sheep, the men are becoming more careful and if the improvement is continued, the work of eradicating scab will soon be completed.

On the West Falkland during the last season there has been a great improvement in the method of shearing, rough shearing spoils the fleeces and consequently the price and value of the wool.

The sheep farmers have rendered every assistance to the Inspectors and without their help it would not have been possible to carry on the work and show such good results as I am able to report.

JAMES ROBERTSON,

Acting Chief Inspector of Stock.

The Honble. the Colonial Secretary,

Falkland Islands.

14478*—5

FALKLAND ISLANDS. 1896.

EDUCATION REPORT FOR 1896.

In the Falkland Islands there are the following Schools :—

In Stanley (all of which are supported by or receive a grant-aid from the Government).

1. The Government Senior or Mixed School.
2. „ „ Infant School.
3. „ Baptist School (mixed).
4. „ Roman Catholic School (mixed).

In Darwin, the Falkland Islands Company's School (mixed).

In the camps or country districts there are the travelling Schoolmasters, one in the Falkland Islands Company's camps, viz., the southern half of this Island, who has been at work for some years, and two on the West Falklands Islands, appointed and paid by Government. They commenced their work in December, 1896.

During the year, by the order of His Excellency the Governor, a meeting of the Teachers of the three Schools in Stanley was held, at which a synopsis of work for the Schools receiving Government aid was drawn up. All these Schools are to be examined simultaneously in this synopsis in September 1897, printed papers of questions being sent from the Educational Department in England.

This arrangement will no doubt cause a healthy rivalry.

The travelling Schoolmasters on East and West have, as far as I have had the opportunity of inspecting their work, brought the children on well, more especially when the short time they can spend in each house or settlement is taken into consideration.

In the Government Schools the Penny Savings Bank carried on its operations as usual.

	£	s.	d.
Credit.—Balance, December 31st, 1895 - -	499	18	2
Deposits during the year - - - -	107	5	6½
Interest, &c., &c. - - - - -	10	10	7½
	£617	14	4

	£	s.	d.
Debit.—Amount paid Depositors - - -	160	3	9
Balance due Depositors, December 31st, 1896	457	10	7
	£617	14	4

Number of accounts closed during the year -	28
Number of new accounts opened during the year	18
Number of Depositors, December 31st, 1896 -	91

The Funds are deposited in the Government Savings Bank.

The attendance, &c., at the Government Schools were as follows :—

The Senior or Mixed Government School—

Times the School has been open - -	457
Total attendance made by Boys - -	13,626
„ „ „ „ Girls - -	9,263
Average attendance of Boys - - -	54·5
„ „ „ Girls - - -	47·8
Number on the Roll, Boys - - -	32
„ „ „ „ Girls - - -	28

The Infant School—

Times the School has been opened - -	458
Total attendance made by Boys - -	11,323
„ „ „ „ Girls - -	12,666
Average attendance of Boys - - -	24·7
„ „ „ Girls - - -	27·6
Number of Boys on the Roll - - -	36
„ „ Girls „ „ „ - - -	33

Totals for Government Schools—

Average attendance of Boys - - -	54·5
„ „ „ Girls - - -	47.4

FALKLAND ISLANDS. 1896.

The steady, persevering application in Stanley of the Compulsory Attendance Ordinance has produced a most salutary effect.

LOWTHER E. BRANDON,
Inspector of Schools.

MEDICAL REPORT FOR 1896.

Stanley,
May 25th, 1897.

SIR,

I have the honour to furnish a report on the health of the Settlement for the year 1896.

It is my pleasant duty to state that the Colony has enjoyed immunity from all diseases whether of an epidemic or endemic nature—a fact which is in itself remarkable considering the downpour of rain we have had for so many months past and the sodden nature of the Camp. The above will bear testimony to what I have stated on former occasions as to the health-giving qualities peculiar to these Islands, and possibly have the effect of inducing health seekers to visit these Islands on the fringe of the Atlantic to recuperate their shattered energies.

I have, &c.,

S. HAMILTON,
Colonial Surgeon.

The Hon. Acting Colonial Secretary.

ECCLESIASTICAL REPORT.

Report of Church work for the year 1896.

The fifteen inhabited Islands were all visited, at least once, most of them twice, during the year, by either the Colonial Chaplain or the Assistant Chaplain. In these visitations all houses— Masters', Managers', Shepherds', and Cook houses

(home of the navvies)—are visited, all children are examined in secular knowledge, in addition to the ordinary work of a Church Clergyman.

The Church Services and Sunday School were carried on regularly in Christ Church, Stanley.

Average Congregations: Morning 160¼, Evening 117½. Number of Baptisms 68, Marriages 10, Funerals 14.

LOWTHER E. BRANDON,
Colonial Chaplain.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 217.

FIJI.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1896.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
November 1897.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH. and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1897.

[C.—8650.-15.] *Price* 1½*d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
184	British Honduras	1895
185	Lagos	,,
186	Basutoland	1895-6
187	Ceylon	1895
188	British Guiana	1895-6
189	Gold Coast	1895
190	Jamaica	1895-6
191	Canada	1895
192	Bermuda	1896
193	Bahamas	,,
194	Zululand	,,
195	Gambia	,,
196	Malta	,,
197	British New Guinea	1895-6
198	Turks and Caicos Islands	1896
199	Barbados	,,
200	Leeward Islands	1895
201	Trinidad and Tobago	1896
202	Gibraltar	,,
203	Fiji (Trade)	,,
204	Straits Settlements	1895
205	Do. do.	1896
206	Falkland Islands	,,
207	British Honduras	,,
208	Sierra Leone	,,
209	Grenada	,,
210	Hong Kong	,,
211	St. Lucia	,,
212	St. Vincent	,,
213	St. Helena	,,
214	Seychelles	,,
215	Mauritius	,,
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands	1897

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.

No. 217.

FIJI.

GOVERNOR SIR G. T. M. O'BRIEN TO MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Suva,
7th September, 1897.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward herewith two copies of the Fiji Blue Book for 1896, and to enclose a copy of a report thereon prepared by the Assistant Colonial Secretary, Mr. James Stewart.

I have, &c.,

G. T. M. O'BRIEN.

The following Report on the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1896 is respectfully submitted :—

(1). REVENUE.

The Revenue for the past two years has been as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
1895	78,240	5	9
1896	73,868	18	9
Net Decrease 1896 ...	4,371	7	0

14913*—75—10/97 Wt 20613 D & S—5 (B)

FIJI. 1896.

The principal decrease occurred on the Items of Customs £977 13*s.* 7*d.*; Native Taxes £1,797 11*s.* 6*d.*; Stamp Duties £460 14*s.* 2*d.*; Fees of Court £1,276 10*s.* 8*d.*

The decrease is mainly attributable to the interruption of trade consequent on the effects of the hurricane of January 1895.

Of the decrease in Customs Duties a sum of £488 12*s.* 7*d.* occurs under the head of Duty on Soap. This falling off is due to the establishment of two local soap manufactories, which has naturally reduced the quantity imported.

Another of the principal decreases in Customs duties occurs under the head of Timber. This is due to the fact that a large quantity of timber was imported in the year 1895 to meet the demands made necessary by the effects of the hurricane.

The following table shows the amount received under each of the heads mentioned during the past two years, with the proportion which each bears to the total revenue :—

——	1896.	Proportion to Total Revenue.	1895.	Proportion to Total Revenue.
	£ *s.* *d.*		£ *s.* *d.*	
Customs ...	34,219 13 2	46·3	35,197 6 9	44·9
Native taxes...	17,986 6 10	24·3	19,783 18 4	25·2
Licenses ...	4,087 4 6	5·5	4,028 4 0	5·1
Stamp duty ...	913 9 6	1·2	1,374 3 8	1·7
Total ...	57,206 14 0	Total ...	60,383 12 9	

The proportion of revenue derived from these heads during the years in question is thus—

1895	77·1
1896	77·4

and is equal to 9*s.* 6*d.* per head of population. The revenue from other sources (amounting in the aggregate to £16,662 4*s.* 9*d.*) is equal to 2*s.* 9*d.* per head of population, the total revenue being thus 12*s.* 3*d.* per head of population for the year 1896.

The proportion which, during the past two years, the revenue from Customs Duties has borne to the total value of imports (excluding produce imported for exportation, on which no duty is levied), is—

1895	15·4
1896	14·4

The total amount contributed by the natives in payment of their taxes during the two years was as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
1895	28,014	17	5
1896	26,551	1	2

There was thus a refund made to them of the following amounts in respect of the years in question, viz.—

	£	s.	d.
1895	8,230	19	1
1896	8,564	14	4

(2). Expenditure.

The expenditure of the years 1895 and 1896 amounted to the following sums, viz.—

	£	s.	d.
1895	76,204	3	11
1896	73,099	3	1

The balance in favour of revenue was thus—

	£	s.	d.
for 1895	2,036	1	10
„ 1896	769	15	8

The expenditure of 1896 was lower than that of the previous year by £3,105 0*s.* 10*d.*

The expenditure of 1895 was swollen by the extraordinary items of £1,019 3*s.* 4*d.* spent in relieving natives whose crops had been destroyed by the hurricane, and £1,463 4*s.* 0*d.* spent in providing new engines for s.s. "Clyde"; and also by other expenses such as re-construction of Wailagilala Light-house necessitated by the effects of the cyclonic storm.

The division of expenditure between personal emoluments and other charges for the two years is as follows :—

——	1895.			1896.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Personal Emoluments ...	37,221	7	1	38,648	8	2
Other Charges	38,516	4	5	33,515	14	11

The total expenditure of the Colony is equal per head of the population to the following sums :—

	s.	d.
1895	12	7
1896	12	1

The ratio which expenditure has borne to the value of exports in each of the two years has been as follows :—

1895	1 to 4·4
1896	1 to 5·9

(3). Public Debt.

The Colonial Assets (beyond Public Debt) exceeded the Liabilities at 31st December 1896 by £8,368 5*s.* 8*d.*

The expenditure on Public Debt for 1896 was £9,283 10*s.* 1*d.*

The Debt was reduced by £3,140 5*s.* 1*d.* during the year, and at 31st December 1896 stood as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Under debenture	119,300	0	0
Due to Imperial Government ...	98,596	16	10
Total ...	£217,896	16	10

(4). Local Boards.

The revenue and expenditure of the Municipal and School Boards in the Colony during the year 1896 were as follows :—

	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Suva Town Board	1,680	1	3	1,505	10	1
Levuka Town Board ...	1,238	7	3	1,129	7	5
Suva School Board	718	14	0	678	9	9
Levuka School Board ...	552	1	0	566	16	4
Total	£4,189	3	6	£3,880	3	7

The Government's contribution to the municipalities was £250 and to the School Boards £712 18*s.* 6*d.* for the year.

(5). PENSIONS.

The Pension list was increased during the year by £252 12*s.* 8*d.*, and at the 31st December 1896 stood at £820 10*s.* 6*d.*

(6). POPULATION.

The estimated population of the Colony at 31st December 1896 was as follows :—

	No.
Europeans	3,292
Half-castes	1,201
Indians	10,433
Polynesians	2,310
Rotumans	2,156
Fijians	100,321
Others	787
Total ...	120,500

The density of population is about 15½ per square mile.

(7). RELIGIOUS MISSIONS.

The Statistics in respect of the year 1896, returned by the two Missions at work in the Colony, are as follows :—

Wesleyan Mission.

	No.
Churches	902
Other preaching places	391
European Missionaries	11
Native Ministers...	67
Catechists	60
Teachers	1,099
Local Preachers	2,051
Class Leaders	4,521
Church Members (English and Native) ...	30,812
On trial for Membership	4,291
Communicants	17
Catechumens	11,081
Day Schools	2,064

Wesleyan Mission—cont.

Day School Scholars	35,141
Day School Teachers	2,597
Sabbath Schools	1,640
Sabbath School Scholars	33,590
Sabbath School Teachers	2,631
Adherents	96,421

Roman Catholic Mission.

European Missionaries	31
Churches and Chapels	85
Training Institutions (European)	1
Training Institutions (Native)	3
Native Teachers	187
European Sisters	25
Adherents	9,437
Schools for Natives	141
Schools for Europeans	3
Native Scholars	2,009
European Scholars	179
European Teachers	7

(8). EDUCATION.

There are two European State Schools, and there are three English Schools conducted by the Roman Catholic Mission. The aggregate average attendance at these five schools was 328·54.

The Native Technical School had 78 students in residence during the year.

The particulars regarding Native Mission Schools are given under the head of "Religious Missions."

(9). CURRENCY.

Accounts are kept in British Sterling currency and in Imperial weights and measures. The estimated amount of coin in circulation is £96,000. The amount of paper money, £4,000.

(10). IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The Total Trade of the Colony, both as regards Imports and Exports, was greater than in the year 1895 but less than in the previous year.

The figures are—

——	1895.	1896.
	£	£
Imports	241,759	242,492
Exports	332,209	435,342
Total Trade ...	£573,968	£677,834

The Total Trade of the Colony during the year 1896 was divided as follows :—

Country.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.	Percentage of Total Trade.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
New South Wales	184,593 0 7	48,156 7 7	232,749 8 2	34·337
Victoria	—	84,036 6 9	84,036 6 9	12·397
New Zealand	35,259 6 6	269,021 13 0	304,280 19 6	44·891
South Australia	—	12 0 0	12 0 0	·002
Total, Australasian Colonies	219,852 7 1	401,226 7 4	621,078 14 5	91·627
Azores	—	24,751 10 0	24,751 10 0	3·652
Canada	3,565 15 8	275 0 0	3.840 15 8	·566
Futuna	1,543 10 0	—	1,543 10 0	·228
Guam	—	4,488 0 0	4,488 0 0	·662
Hawaiian Islands	159 11 0	79 4 0	238 15 0	·035
India	8,367 1 2	—	8,367 1 2	1·234
New Hebrides	29 0 0	—	29 0 0	·004
Samoa	11 12 1	95 7 10	106 19 11	·016
Tonga	418 12 8	4,397 1 0	4,815 13 8	·710
United States	2,281 19 9	—	2,281 19 9	·337
Wallis Island	3,841 0 11	25 5 9	3,866 6 8	·570
Line Islands	9 10 4	4 9 1	13 19 5	·002
New Caledonia	401 11 10	—	401 11 10	·059
Queensland	2,010 10 10	—	2,010 10 10	·298
Total ... £	242,492 3 4	435,342 5 0	677,834 8 4	—

FIJI. 1896.

The foregoing statement shows that while the total trade with the Australasian Colonies, amounting to £621,078, formed 91·6 per cent. of the Total Trade of the Colony during the year 1896, the Imports from the Australasian Colonies (£219,852) formed 90·6 per cent. of the total Imports, and the Exports to the Australasian Colonies (£401,226) formed 92·2 per cent. of the total Exports.

The Imports from places other than the Australasian Colonies amounted to only £22,640 or 9 per cent. of the whole. and of that amount £5,212 represents produce in transit for exportation. It may thus be said that only 7·1 per cent. of the Imports for use in the Colony were obtained from beyond the Australasian Colonies.

The major portion of the goods obtained from the Australasian Colonies are, however, of British origin.

The Exports to places other than the Australasian Colonies amounted to only 7·8 per cent. of the total Exports, or £34,116 ; of this amount £29,240 represents the export of Copra to Europe, leaving only £4,876 as the value of exports other than Copra shipped to places beyond the Australasian Colonies during the year.

As regards the division of trade among the Australasian Colonies, it appears that of the total Imports therefrom 83·962 per cent. came from New South Wales, and 16·038 per cent. from New Zealand. Of the Exports thereto 67·50 per cent. were sent to New Zealand, 20·945 per cent. to Victoria, 12·002 per cent. to New South Wales, and ·003 per cent. to South Australia. Fiji thus imported most from New South Wales among the Australasian Colonies in 1896. The value of exports to the several colonies is largely dependent on the destination of the sugar consignments.

The export of Sugar during the year to the respective colonies was—

Colony.	Quantity.	Value.	Proportion.
	Tons.	£	
New South Wales	101½	1,218	·362
New Zealand	21,018	251,954	74·782
Victoria	6,214	83,746	24·856

The quantity and value of the three staple products of the Colony,—Sugar, Green Fruit, and Copra,—exported during the past six years are given in the following table.

Year.	Sugar.		Green Fruit.	Copra.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	£	£	Tons.	£
1891	20,471	327,526	61,501	6,445	59,618
1892	18,833	302,133	62,442	5,901	49,422
1893	15,389	246,231	36,597	4,790	62,235
1894	27,265	436,245	49,115	5,833	57,261
1895	23,210	208,889	20,987	9,244	79,726
1896	27,334	336,929	13,488	5,187	48,950

Although the value of the Green Fruit exported during the year 1896 was less than in the previous year, the quantity was greater.

	Bunches.	Cases.
In 1895 the Export was ...	114,024 ...	20,725
In 1896 the quantity was ...	207,352 ...	34,934

When the value of the few major exports are deducted from the value of total Exports, it is found that the export of minor products is of inconsiderable value.

This will be seen on reference to the following statement :—

	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
	£	£	£	£
Total value of Exports the produce of the Colony ..	354,318	570,869	317,851	430,130
Deduct Value of Sugar exported	246,231	436,245	208,889	336,929
Value of remaining Exports	108,087	134,624	108,962	93,201
Deduct Value of Fruit exported	36,599	49 115	20,987	18,490
Value of Exports except Sugar and Fruit	71,488	85,509	87,975	74,711
Deduct Value of Copra exported	42,236	57,261	79,726	48,950
Value of Exports except Sugar, Fruit, and Copra ..	29,252	28,248	8,249	25,761
Deduct Value of Colonial Distilled Spirits exported	13,365	16,746	--	10,163
Value of Exports other than Sugar, Fruit, Copra, and Rum	15,887	11,502	8,249	15,598

The minor exports comprised in the figures given above may be summarised as follows :—

Item.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
	£	£	£	£
Cocoanuts	1,342	2,496	962	1,803
Peanuts	3,587	2,435	1,623	3.649
Wool	417	1,161	524	225
Bêche-de-mer	797	808	483	378
Desiccated Cocoanuts	2,122	802	—	—
Cotton	2,260	741	546	1,632
Maize	2,680	125	—	300
Tobacco	1	95	5	3,798
Total value of principal minor exports	13,206	8,663	4,143	11,785
The total value of minor exports was shown to be	15,887	11,502	8,249	15,598
Which leaves the following sums as the value of subsidiary items of export ...	2,681	2,839	4,106	3,813

(11). NAVIGATION.

98 steamships and 34 sailing vessels, of an aggregate tonnage of 115,470, entered the two ports of the Colony from abroad during the year 1896.

The interinsular trade is conducted by a subsidised steamer and a fleet of small vessels. The interinsular fleet comprised 66 European-owned vessels, of 793 tons in the aggregate, and 125 native-owned vessels, of a total tonnage of 1,041 tons, besides a large number of undecked vessels. In the expression "native-owned vessels" is included vessels owned by Fijians, half-castes, Indians, and Polynesians. No account is taken of Fijians canoes in this statement.

(12). AGRICULTURE.

The estimated acreage of the Colony is 4,953,920. The estimated acreage of cultivated land in the Colony is 39,402, leaving an estimated acreage of uncultivated land, or of land cultivated by natives for the purpose of growing food only, of 4,914,518.

The cultivated land was under crop during the year as follows :—

	Acres.
Peanuts	284
Bananas	1,231
Pine-apples	323
Beans	24
Cocoanuts	17,704
Maize	380
Sugar-cane	18,432
Tobacco	50
Rice	280
Yams	116
Tea	220
Vanilla	4
Kumalas and potatoes	29
Other products	325
Total	39,402

The number of live-stock in the Colony at the end of the year was :—

	No.
Horses	1,631
Horned-cattle...	12,558
Sheep	4,760
Goats	3,115

and a large number of pigs.

Returns for the past year indicate, with respect to the districts in the vicinity of the Rewa Sugar Mill, that the natives have in patches cultivated in the aggregate some 363 acres, yielding 6,169 tons of cane.

The returns from the other sugar districts have not been received.

A comparatively new and encouraging feature in the agricultural outlook of the Colony is the extensive cultivation of sugar-cane by unindentured Indian coolies. On the Navua River the number of these Indians, all of whom originally came to the Colony as indentured immigrants, has risen from 5 in 1894 to 34 in 1895, and to 106 in 1896. At the end of last year they had some

FIJI. 189 . 960 acres of land under cultivation in sugar-cane. The quantity and value of cane grown by them in the three years mentioned is as follows :—

Year.	Tons.	Value.
		£
1894	1,676	1,129
1895	3,566	2,447
1896	10,753	5,974

There is also at Navua an area of 200 acres under cultivation in bananas by unindentured Indian coolies. The total population of such coolies supported by those industries at Navua amounts to some 875 souls,—comprising 429 men, 185 women, and 261 children.

On the Rewa River there was also at the end of 1896 some 700 acres of land under sugar-cane grown by time-expired Indian immigrants. During the year 12,678 tons of cane from these lands were crushed at Nausori Mill, the amount paid therefor to the Indian cultivators being £7,900.

The number of Indians settled on the lands in question, and dependent on cane-farming for their living, was 210 men, 90 women, and 100 children,—or 400 souls in all.

The cultivation of bananas has extended in the districts of Nadroga and Colo West. It was estimated that at the end of the year some 398,000 banana trees had been planted by the natives under contract with a syndicate which commenced operations in this district last year. There is every reason to hope that the production of fruit, especially in Colo West and in Ba, will increase.

(13). Manufactories, &c.

There were at work in the Colony during the year seven sugar mills with a nominal daily output of 126 tons, one tea factory with a nominal daily output of dried tea of 400 lbs., and 16 boat-building yards.

(14). Meteorological Observations.

The meteorological conditions of the year may be seen from the following table :—

Synopsis of Meteorological Observations

Taken at Suva, Fiji, during 1896, at 9 a.m. Latitude 18° 8′ S. Longitude 178° 26′ E. Height above Mean Sea-level 10 feet All corrections applied.

Month.	Mean Pressure.	Air Temperature.							Vapour in Cubic foot of Air.	Relative Humidity. Sat.=100.
		Mean.	Means of		Absolute Minimum and Maximum.					
			Min.	Max.	Min.	Date.	Max.	Date.	Mean.	Mean.
January	29·977	83	74	87	69	15th.	91	28th.	8·4	71
February	29·931	83	74	88	71	7th.	93	29th.	8·8	73
March	29·925	83	75	87	71	9th, 10th, 23rd.	92	28th.	8·8	75
April	30·000	83	74	88	70	22nd, 23rd.	94	5th, 6th.	8·6	73
May	30·049	80	72	85	65	21st.	93	12th.	8·2	74
June	30·100	78	69	83	65	8th, 30th.	87	5th.	7·3	70
July	30·072	76	67	82	60	20th.	90	24th.	6·5	68
August	30·117	76	68	81	61	17th.	87	21st.	6·7	69
September	30·084	77	70	82	67	22nd, 23rd.	90	10th.	7·5	74
October	30·028	75	70	79	65	26th.	83	28th, 31st.	7·0	73
November	29·966	79	72	84	66	5th.	93	1st.	7·1	67
December	29·926	80	75	84	71	12th.	86	6th, 7th, 8th, 14th, 15th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 24th, 25th.	8·1	73
Year	30·015	79	72	84	60	20th July.	94	5th, 6th April.	7·8	72

SYNOPSIS OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS—*continued.*

Height of Thermometers above the ground—4 feet. Height of the Raingauge above the ground—24 feet.

Month.	Amount of Cloud. 9 a.m.	Rainfall.			Weather. No. of Days of					Wind. No. of Observations of								
	Mean.	Total.	Max.	Date.	Rain.	Thunder-Storms.	Clear Sky.	Overcast.	Gales.	N.	N.E.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.	N.W.	Calm.
January	5	6·77	1·65	13th.	22	4	—	3	—	—	5	15	11	—	—	—	—	—
February	5	14·05	2·85	20th.	21	7	—	5	—	8	6	13	1	—	—	—	1	—
March	5	8·56	2·80	12th.	24	1	1	6	1	2	10	11	4	3	—	1	—	—
April	3	9·49	2·30	30th.	24	2	—	2	—	2	11	5	11	—	—	—	1	—
May	4	3·10	1·20	18th.	22	3	1	4	—	6	2	10	7	4	2	—	—	—
June	4	1·11	0·31	26th.	17	—	1	—	—	—	6	13	7	3	—	—	1	—
July	4	2·04	0·80	2nd.	17	—	5	3	—	7	4	1	8	6	3	—	2	—
August	5	1·00	0·35	20th.	16	—	—	8	—	2	4	12	10	2	1	—	—	—
September	6	8·57	3·35	6th.	22	—	—	10	—	4	1	11	10	2	2	—	—	—
October	8	10·55	2·29	3rd.	25	—	—	15	—	1	—	15	13	1	1	—	—	—
November	5	3·18	0·86	27th.	22	—	—	3	—	2	4	16	6	1	1	—	—	—
December	6	11·25	3·12	9th.	27	1	—	9	—	—	1	23	5	1	—	—	1	—
Year	5	79·67	3·35	6th Sept.	259	18	8	68	1	34	54	145	93	23	10	1	6	—

(15). ROADS.

Attention has during the year been given to road-making in the Colo and Ra Provinces of Viti Levu, and on the Island of Vanua Levu.

The aggregate length of road and bridle tracks in this Colony is returned at 956 miles.

(16). POSTAL.

The extent of postal communication to and within the Colony is indicated by the following statement :—

Number of Post, Money Order, and Telegraph Offices in 1896.

Post Offices.	Money Order Offices.	Telegraph Offices.
34	2	Nil.

Statement of the Estimated Total Number of Letters, &c., dealt with in 1896.

—	Internal.	External.				Total.
		United Kingdom.		Other Places.		
		From	To	From	To	
Letters ... ... / Post Cards ...	251,763	9,205	11,056	65,480	54,462	391,966
Newspapers ...	154,678	32,454	2,915	110,938	9,485	310,470
Book Packets, Samples, and Circulars ...	23,587	4,196	957	11,720	3,465	43,925
Parcels	—	294	101	440	64	899
Telegrams ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

	Despatched.	Received.
(Including Registered ...	5,414 ...	5,411).

(17). GENERAL.

The various steam services to the Colony have been well maintained throughout the year. The steamship lines running are the Union Steamship Company, of New Zealand, the Canadian-Australian Steamship Company, and the Australian United Steamship Company. There has thus been communication to and from Sydney three times a month, with Auckland twice, with Samoa, Tonga, Honolulu, and Vancouver (British Columbia) once a month, besides the usual number of irregular steamers in the sugar season.

The number of immigrant labourers introduced during the year was 1,273 (117 Polynesians and 1,156 Indians), the number returning home being 683 Indian Coolies.

J. STEWART,
Assistant Colonial Secretary.

2nd September, 1897.

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No. 203.

FIJI.

REPORT ON TRADE FOR 1896.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
August 1897.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 1-3, Great St. Thomas Apostle, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, Hanover Street, Edinburgh, and
90, West Nile Street, Glasgow; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., Limited, 104, Grafton Street, Dublin.

1897.

[C.—8650.-1.] *Price* 1½*d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
175	Falkland Islands	1895
176	St. Helena	,,
177	Bahamas	,,
178	Hong Kong	,,
179	Windward Islands	,,
180	Labuan	,,
181	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
182	Seychelles	,,
183	Mauritius and Rodrigues	1894 and 1895
184	British Honduras	1895
185	Lagos	,,
186	Basutoland	1895-6
187	Ceylon	1895
188	British Guiana	1895-6
189	Gold Coast	1895
190	Jamaica	1895-6
191	Canada	1895
192	Bermuda	1896
193	Bahamas	,,
194	Zululand	,,
195	Gambia	,,
196	Malta	,,
197	British New Guinea	1895-6
198	Turks and Caicos Islands	1896
199	Barbados	1896
200	Leeward Islands	1895
201	Trinidad and Tobago	1896
202	Gibraltar	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.

No. 203.

FIJI.—TRADE OF 1896.

Acting-Governor SIR H. S. BERKELEY to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Suva, June 14, 1897.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a report on the Trade and Commerce and Shipping of the Colony of Fiji for the year 1896. The returns on which the report is based will be embodied in the Blue Book for the current year, but, owing to unavoidable circumstances, the issue of that return is delayed, and I therefore forward the report.

I have, &c.,

H. S. BERKELEY.

REPORT ON THE TRADE AND COMMERCE AND SHIPPING OF THE COLONY OF FIJI FOR THE YEAR 1896.

The Honourable the RECEIVER-GENERAL to The Honourable the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit herewith the Statistical Returns of the Trade and Commerce of the Colony for the years 1893, 1894, 1895, and 1896.

Total Trade of the Colony.

2. The value of the Imports, Exports, and Total Trade of the Colony during the four years under review is shown in the

14287*—75—8/97 Wt 20613 D & S—5 (B)

following statement. The figures given do not in their reference include Bullion and Specie.

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total Trade.
	£	£	£
1893	276,398	355,632	632,030
1894	285,981	581,652	867,633
1895	241,759	332,209	573,968
1896	242,492	435,342	677,834

3. The value of the Total Trade of the year 1894 is greater than that of any other year of the Colony's history. In 1896 it is greater than that of the previous year by £103,866.

4. The proportion which the Imports, Exports and Total Trade of the other three years bear to those of the year 1896, is as follows :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total Trade.
1893	113·1	81·7	93·2
1894	117·9	133·6	128
1895	99·7	76·3	84·7
1896	100	100	100

5. The proportion which the Imports and Exports respectively of each year of the series bear to the Total Trade of that year is shown in the following table :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	Percentage of Total Trade.	Percentage of Total Trade.
1893	43·73	56·27
1894	32·96	67·04
1895	42·12	57·88
1896	35·77	64·23

6. The Total Trade of the Colony during the year 1896 was divided as follows :—

Country.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.	Percentage of Total Trade.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
New South Wales	184,593 0 7	48,156 7 7	232,749 8 2	34·337
Victoria	—	84,036 6 9	84,036 6 9	12·397
New Zealand	35,259 6 6	269,021 13 0	304,280 19 6	44·891
South Australia	—	12 0 0	12 0 0	·002
Total, Australasian Colonies	219,852 7 1	401,226 7 4	621,078 14 5	91·627
Azores	—	24,751 10 0	24,751 10 0	3·652
Canada	3,565 15 8	275 0 0	3,840 15 8	·566
Futuna	1,543 10 0	—	1,543 10 0	·228
Guam	—	4,488 0 0	4,488 0 0	·662
Hawaiian Islands	159 11 0	79 4 0	238 15 0	·035
India	8,367 1 2	—	8,367 1 2	1·234
New Hebrides	29 0 0	—	29 0 0	·004
Samoa	11 12 1	95 7 10	106 19 11	·016
Tonga	418 12 8	4,397 1 0	4,815 13 8	·710
United States	2,281 19 9	—	2,281 19 9	·337
Wallis Island	3,841 0 11	25 5 9	3,866 6 8	·570
Line Islands	9 10 4	4 9 1	13 19 5	·002
New Caledonia	401 11 10	—	401 11 10	·059
Queensland	2,010 10 10	—	2,010 10 10	·298
	242,492 3 4	435,342 5 0	677,834 8 4	—

7. The foregoing statement shows that while the total trade with the Australasian Colonies, amounting to £621,078, formed 91·6 per cent. of the Total Trade of the Colony during the year 1896, the Imports from the Australasian Colonies (£219,852) formed 90·6 per cent. of the total Imports, and the Exports to the Australasian Colonies (£401,226) formed 92·2 per cent. of the total Exports.

8. The Imports from places other than the Australasian Colonies amounted to only £22,640 or 9 per cent. of the whole, and of that amount £5,212 represents produce in transit for exportation. It may thus be said that only 7·1 per cent. of the Imports for use in the Colony were obtained from beyond the Australasian Colonies.

9. The Exports to places other than the Australasian Colonies amounted to only 7·8 per cent. of the total Exports, or £34,116 ; of this amount £29,240 represents the export of Copra to Europe, leaving only £4,876 as the value of exports other than Copra shipped to places beyond the Australasian Colonies during the year.

FIJI. 1896

10. As regards the division of trade among the Australasian Colonies, it appears that of the total Imports therefrom 83·962 per cent. came from New South Wales, and 16·038 per cent. from New Zealand. Of the Exports thereto 67·50 per cent. were sent to New Zealand, 20·945 per cent. to Victoria, 12·002 per cent. to New South Wales, and ·003 per cent. to South Australia. Fiji thus imported most from New South Wales among the Australasian Colonies in 1896. The value of exports to the several colonies is largely dependent on the destination of the sugar consignments.

The export of Sugar during the year to the respective colonies was—

Colony.	Quantity.	Value.	Proportion.
	Tons.	£	
New South Wales	101½	1,218	·362
New Zealand	21,018	251,954	74·782
Victoria	6,214	83,746	24·856

11. The division of the Trade between the two ports of Entry in the Colony is exhibited in the following statement :—

	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
Suva—	£	£	£	£
Value of Imports for use in the Colony ..	190,820	194,518	157,541	172,876
Do. imported for Exportation ..	—	—	319	370
Do. Total	190,820	194,518	157,860	173,246
Value of Exports the produce of the Colony ..	301,835	511,694	259,135	404,174
Do. imported for Exportation ..	—	—	319	370
Do. Total	301,835	511,694	259,454	404,544
Total Trade	492,655	706,212	417,314	577,790
Levuka—				
Value of Imports for use in the Colony ..	84,264	80,679	69,860	64,404
Do. imported for Exportation ..	1,314	10,784	14,039	4,842
Do. Total	85,578	91,463	83,899	69,246
Value of Exports the produce of the Colony ..	52,483	59,174	58,716	25,956
Do. imported for Exportation ..	1,314	10,784	14,039	4,842
Do. Total	53,797	69,958	72,755	30,798
Total Trade	139,375	161,421	156,654	100,044

12. The proportions of the Total Trade thus credited to each Port are—

	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
Suva	77·9	81·4	72·71	85.24
Levuka	22·1	18·6	27·29	14·76

13. If the value of Produce Imported for Exportation and of Imported Produce Exported be left out of account the proportions of the Total Trade at each Port would be—

	1893.	1894	1895.	1896.
Suva	78·3	83 5	76·42	86·46
Levuka	21·7	16·5	23·58	13·54

Imports.

14. The Imports of the four years under review have been obtained from the various countries, and to the amounts, shown in the subjoined statement.

Country.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	194,174	203,074	178,919	184,593
Victoria	14,719	8,570	4,263	—
New Zealand	41,016	49,249	36,964	35,259
Tasmania	—	8	—	—
Queensland	—	2,120	—	2,010
Total Australasian Colonies	249,909	263,021	220,146	221,862
India	2,570	6,748	1,345	8,367
United Kingdom	18,479	—	—	—
United States	3,743	2,145	3,699	2,282
Canada	—	800	984	3,566
Japan	—	846	—	—
Hawaii	—	125	—	160
Carried forward ...	274,701	273,685	226,174	236,237

Country.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward ...	274,701	273,685	226,174	236,237
Samoa	—	4,576	13	12
Tonga	12	2	10,760	419
Ellice Group	—	1,860	539	—
Futuna	—	1,153	1,095	1,543
Wallis Island	1,355	3,918	2,563	3,841
New Caledonia	314	787	—	401
New Hebrides	18	—	—	29
Noumea	—	—	448	—
Solomon Islands	—	—	139	—
Norfolk Island...	—	—	28	—
Line Islands	—	—	—	10
Total	276,400	285,981	241,759	242,492

15. The value of Imports, compared with 1895, shows a slight increase.

But one of the principal items of fluctuation in the value of Imports is the amount of produce imported for exportation.

During the four years under review the value of produce imported for exportation has been as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
1893	1,313	13	8
1894	10,783	12	2
1895	14,357	17	5
1896	5,211	17	6

If this fluctuating element be left out of consideration the Imports for the four years would compare thus :—

Year.	Value of Imports.	Proportion per centum to Imports of 1896.
	£	
1893	275,085	115·83
1894	275,197	115·88
1895	227,401	95·75
1896	237,492	100·00

The Imports of the year 1896 for use in the Colony thus show an increase of 4·25 compared with those of 1895.

16. The division of Imports between goods subject to Custom duties and goods that are admitted free of duty is given hereunder, viz.,—

Year.	Dutiable Imports.	Free Imports.	Total Value.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1893	172,363 10 0	104,034 16 7	276,398 6 7
1894	179,657 12 7	106,323 0 9	285,980 13 4
1895	161,881 17 5	79,877 6 3	241,759 3 8
1896	129,234 11 7	113,257 11 9	242,492 3 4

The disturbing element of produce imported for exportation (which is entirely duty free) enters also into the foregoing figures, and, with the view of arriving at a fairer comparison, the following statement is presented which excludes the value of such produce :—

Year.	Dutiable Imports.	Free Imports (excluding Produce Imported for Exportation).	Total Value.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1893	172,363 10 0	102,721 2 11	275,084 12 11
1894	179,657 12 7	95,539 8 7	275,197 1 2
1895	161,881 17 5	65,519 8 10	227,401 6 3
1896	129,234 11 7	108,045 14 3	237,280 5 10

17. The principal items of Import with their values for each of the four years are shown in the subjoined table :—

Nature of Import.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
	£	£	£	£
1. Bacon and Hams	1,456	1,578	1,327	1,193
2. Bags and Sugar-mats	4,326	6,518	5,204	5,499
3. Beer...	3,267	2,754	3,043	2,865
4. Books	847	1,251	1,442	1,243
5. Boots and Shoes	3,410	3,841	3,451	4,002
6. Breadstuffs and Biscuits... ...	19,139	15,186	16,029	21,564
7. Butter	2,500	2,569	2,973	2,660
8. Coals	9,604	15,579	12,028	13,527
9. Cordage	1,859	1,507	1,279	1,199
10. Cutlery	1,939	2,466	2,512	1,744

Name of Import.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
	£	£	£	£
11. Drapery	47,121	52,606	48,906	47,978
12. Drugs	2,044	2,679	2,940	2,787
13. Fish	2,191	2,557	1,829	2,103
14. Furniture	1,508	1,762	1,414	1,361
15. Galvanised Iron and Goods ...	5,717	4,940	5,728	4,886
16. Glassware and Crockery... ...	2,955	3,630	2,712	2,189
17. Hardware	11,247	15,808	9,543	10,716
18. Iron—bar, rod, sheet, rails, and pipes	4,171	5,082	2,678	2,993
19. Jewellery	1,063	1,764	1,373	1,409
20. Leatherware	2,766	3,432	1,656	1,872
21. Live Stock	14,466	7,754	3,907	6,439
22. Machinery	22,781	23,264	5,368	2,498
23. Machinery—Agricultural ...	4,287	1,591	1,283	1,560
24. Manure	6,263	2,791	99	2,261
25. Meats	12,892	13,716	11,729	11,635
26. Oils...	5,281	6,197	4,822	6,239
27. Oats...	5,611	5,170	2,107	645
28. Pickles and Oilstores	2,853	3,359	3,127	3,579
29. Paints	1,704	1,535	1,645	1,646
30. Produce	5,096	6,699	6,188	8,642
31. Rice...	12,396	10,195	9,081	9,661
32. Ship Chandlery	2,458	1,640	1,592	1,598
33. Soap	2,058	2,331	1,678	877
34. Spirits	3,039	3,230	3,964	3,409
35. Stationery	2,640	3,180	2,684	2,939
36. Sugar	2,262	968	3,895	4,405
37. Timber	9,089	5,958	6,698	6,400
38. Tobacco	1,646	1,669	1,564	1,597
39. Vegetables and Green Fruit ...	2,858	2,413	2,635	3,180
40. Wines	1,238	1,026	1,845	1,505
41. Woodenware	1,546	1,417	1,255	1,061

The principal fluctuations during the year 1896 consist of increases under the heads of Breadstuffs and Biscuits, Coals, Hardware, Live Stock, Manure, Oils, and Produce, and decreases under Machinery, Oats, and Soap.

18. The amount of Customs duties levied on Imports during the four years, and the proportion which the amounts levied bear to—(1) the total value of Imports, and to (2) the total value of Dutiable Imports, are as follows :—

Year.	Customs Duty levied.	Proportion to	
		Total Value of Imports.	Value of Dutiable Imports.
	£ s. d.		
1893	36,638 7 9	13·3	21·26
1894	37,674 16 7	13·2	20·31
1895	35,196 19 3	14·6	21·74
1896	34,219 8 8	14·1	26·4

Exports.

19. The Exports for the four years under review have been divided among the countries and in the amounts shown hereunder :—

Country.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
New South Wales	63,234 7 4	46,658 16 1	26,256 1 1	48,156 7 7
Victoria	65,145 10 9	130,828 10 4	42,421 3 10	84,036 6 9
New Zealand	189,621 3 3	339,328 17 1	190,503 11 5	269,021 13 0
South Australia	—	—	—	12 0 0
Total, Australasian Colonies	318,001 1 4	516,816 3 6	259,180 16 4	401,226 7 4
Azores	—	5,724 2 0	30,002 13 0	24,751 10 0
Canada	—	590 9 3	99 6 0	275 0 0
Ellice Group	6 18 0	4 0 0	—	—
France	—	6,586 19 8	—	—
Futuna	10 12 0	14 0 0	6 0 0	—
Guam	—	—	—	4,488 0 0
Hawaiian Islands	—	52 3 0	50 10 0	79 4 0
Italy	7,855 13 0	—	—	—
Line Islands	—	—	—	4 9 1
New Caledonia	68 8 0	—	—	—
New Hebrides	—	—	84 0 0	—
Portugal	13,746 10 10	28,861 4 2	22,437 18 9	—
Carried forward	339,689 3 2	558,649 1 7	311,861 4 1	430,824 10 5

Country.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brought forward.. ..	339.689 3 2	558,649 1 7	311,861 4 1	430,824 10 5
Russia	5,934 2 6	8,801 12 6	—	—
Samoa	54 15 6	145 11 10	62 12 6	95 7 10
Solomon Islands..	—	120 0 0	—	—
Spain	—	3,027 7 4	20,270 6 2	—
Tonga	129 14 2	67 8 0	5 18 0	4,397 1 0
United Kingdom	9,740 16 4	10,809 2 8	—	—
Vancouver	79 8 8	—	—	—
Wallis Island	3 13 2	32 3 0	8 15 3	25 5 9
Total	355,631 13 6	581,652 6 11	332,208 16 0	435,342 5 0

20. The Export trade shows a tendency to concentrate around the major products,—viz., Sugar, Fruit and Copra,—although Fruit, which since 1887 had occupied the second place on the list of Exports, receded to the third place in 1893 and still retains that position.

When, however, the value of the few major exports are deducted from the value of total Exports, it is found that the export of minor products is a diminishing quantity.

This will be seen on reference to the following statement :—

	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
	£	£	£	£
Total value of Exports the produce of the Colony ..	354,318	570,869	317,851	430,130
Deduct Value of Sugar exported..	246,231	436,245	208,889	336,929
Value of remaining Exports	108,087	134,624	108,962	93,201
Deduct Value of Fruit exported..	36,599	49,115	20,987	18,490
Value of Exports except Sugar and Fruit	71,488	85,509	87,975	74,711
Deduct Value of Copra exported	42,236	57,261	79,726	48,950
Value of Exports except Sugar, Fruit, and Copra ..	29,252	28,248	8,249	25,761
Deduct Value of Colonial Distilled Spirits exported	13,365	16,746	—	10,163
Value of Exports other than Sugar, Fruit, Copra, and Rum	15,887	11,502	8,249	15,598

From the foregoing statement it appears that after deducting the three principal items of Export, there is left only the sum of—

In 1893	£29,252
„ 1894	28,248
„ 1895	8,249
„ 1896	25,761

The apparent increase in 1893 and 1894 is due to the export on an extended scale of a new item—a by-product of the sugar industry—Colonial Distilled Spirit, the value of which rose from

nil in 1892 to £13,365 in 1893 and £16,746 in 1894, leaving in these years, as the value of minor products exported, the amounts of—

In 1893	...	...	...	£15,887
„ 1894	...	...	...	11,502
„ 1895	...	...	...	8,249
„ 1896	...	...	...	15,598

21. Proceeding first to examine the position of the three principal products, it is found that the following figures represent the export of--

Sugar

during the past four years :—

Year.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	£
1893	15,389	246,231
1894	27,265	436,245
1895	23,210	208,889
1896	27,334	336,929

The Export of Sugar was greater in 1896 than in any of the years under consideration. The state of the sugar-market is unsatisfactory, and is likely to remain so while the conflict with bounty-fed beet-sugar continues. The area under sugar-cane is, however, increasing. This industry can be profitably conducted on a large scale only.

Fruit.

22. The Export of Dried and Green Fruit has been as is shown hereunder,—

Year.	Total Value.	Fruits, Dried and Preserved.	Green Fruits.	
			Bananas.	Pine-apples and Bananas.
	£		Bunches.	Cases.
1893	36,599	3 qrs. 2 lbs.	348,599	17,421
1894	49,115	24 lbs.	390,746	33,014
1895	20,987	—	114,024	20,725
1896	18,490	28 lbs.	207,352	34,934

From these figures it appears that the fruit trade was, during the period under consideration, at its height in 1894 ; decreasing from £49,115 in that year to £20,987 in 1895 and £18,490 in 1896. Large areas are, however, being put under cultivation at

Sigatoka, Savusavu, Taviuni, and Viria, and a considerable export trade may be anticipated during 1897. The export to each of the colonies during the past four years is shown in the following statement :—

	1893	1894	1895	1896
	£	£	£	£
New South Wales... ...	17,070	23,064	5,052	7,097
New Zealand	18,169	22,710	15,349	11,359
Victoria	1,284	2,903	526	34
Vancouver	—	—	60	—

Copra.

23. The export of Copra during the past four years has been as follows. The export of Cocoanuts is not included.

Year.	Fijian Copra.	Copra Imported for Exportation.	Total Exports.	Value of Total Exports.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	£
1893	4,790	149	4,939	43,549
1894	5,833	1,098½	6,932	68,045
1895	9,244	1,665	10,909	94,084
1896	4,862	625	5,487	48,950

The quantity of Copra exported in 1896 was considerably below the average. Compared with 1895 the export was less by 5,422 tons, valued at £45,134. There were 1,080 tons of Copra awaiting shipment on 31st December, 1896.

The principal minor products (in the order of their volume in 1894) were—

Colonial Distilled Spirits.

24. This industry began only in 1893 in an extended form. The Colonial Sugar Refining Company ceased distilling in 1895, but resumed operations in 1896, when Spirits to the value of £10,163, was exported. The export during the four years was—

Year.	Quantity.	Value.
	Gallons.	£
1893	106,920	13,365
1894	133,971	16,746
1895	—	—
1896	78,890	10,163

Cocoanuts.

25. For a number of years there has been an export of Cocoanuts in sacks (which may be estimated as each containing 90 cocoanuts) to the Australasian markets. The following figures give the particulars of the export during the past four years :—

Year.	Quantity.	Value.
	Sacks.	£
1893	5,369	1,342
1894	9,984	2,496
1895	3,849	962
1896	7,181	1,803

The export, which in 1895 had decreased to 3,849 sacks, appears to have somewhat revived during the year 1896.

Peanuts.

26. The export of Peanuts has increased considerably in 1896, being £2,026 greater than 1895.

Year.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	£
1893	192	3,587
1894	130	2,435
1895	87	1,623
1896	191	3,649

Wool.

27. The export of Wool increased during 1894, but probably on account of the holding over of consignments from the previous year.

The exports were—

Year.	Quantity.	Value.
		£
1893	4 tons 9 cwt.	417
1894	12 tons 9 cwt.	1,161
1895	6 tons 12 cwt.	524
1896	3 tons 18 cwt.	225

Bêche-de-mer.

28. The export was at its height, so far as recent years are concerned, in the year 1887, when 96 tons were exported, valued at £4,812. For each of the three succeeding years it stood at about sixty tons, but since that time it has diminished.

The export of the past four years has been—

Year.	Quantity.	Value.
		£
1893	15 tons 19 cwt.	797
1894	16 tons 3 cwt.	808
1895	9 tons 15 cwt.	483
1896	10 tons 3 cwt.	378

Desiccated Cocoanuts.

29. The export of this product began in the year 1888, when some 8 tons 13 cwt. was exported. It has fallen off in volume during past years, and disappears entirely from our lists in 1895 and 1896. The following figures represent the export of the past four years :—

Year.	Quantity.	Value.
		£
1893	37 tons 17 cwt.	2,122
1894	14 tons 4 cwt.	801
1895	—	—
1896	—	—

Cotton (Kidney).

30. The cultivation of this product, which had practically died out, was revived in 1889 when some of the Natives were induced to grow Cotton. The export for 1896 is greater than 1895 by 30 tons valued at £1,086

The export of Ginned Cotton during the four years was :—

Year.	Quantity.	Value.
		£
1893	40 tons 7 cwt.	2,260
1894	19 tons 6 cwt.	741
1895	4 tons 12 cwt.	546
1896	35 tons	1,632

There were about 22 tons Cotton in stock awaiting shipment on 31st December, 1896.

Maize.

31. Maize is occasionally exported, but it can only be done profitably when, owing to flood or drought, a scarcity occurs in the Australian Colonies. The export of the past four years has been : —

Year.	Quantity.	Value.
	Bushels.	£
1893	17,864	2,680
1894	1,000	125
1895	—	—
1896	2,568	300

There is, however, a large local consumption of Maize, amounting to probably over 20,000 bushels annually.

32. The minor exports comprised in the figures given above may be summarised as follows :—

Item.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
	£	£	£	£
Cocoanuts (as detailed above)	1,342	2,496	962	1,803
Peanuts „	3,587	2,435	1,623	3.649
Wool „	417	1,161	524	225
Bêche-de-mer „	797	808	483	378
Desiccated Cocoanuts „	2,122	802	—	—
Cotton „	2,260	741	546	1,632
Maize „	2,680	125	—	300
Tobacco „	1	95	5	3,798
Total value of principal minor exports	13,206	8,663	4,143	11,785
The total value of minor exports was shown to be	15,887	11,502	8,249	15,598
Which leaves the following sums as the value of subsidiary items of export ...	2,681	2,839	4,106	3,813

33. These are—

	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
	£	£	£	£
Bark	—	—	—	39
Beans...	—	2	117	—
Bones...	6	—	25	—
Cigars	5	—	—	—
Cocoanut Husks	—	—	—	2
Cotton Seed	—	10	57	77
Curiosities	493	593	534	358
Exhibits	—	10	2	—
Fibre	1	—	2	—
Ginger	14	59	299	3
Hair—Angora	—	9	—	—
Herbs	2	3	—	—
Hides	664	700	927	280
Husks	—	—	1	—
Ivory Nuts	1	1	—	—
Mats	—	6	5	13
Molasses	140	53	468	157
Oil	—	—	2	—
Pearlshell	292	246	440	575
Plants and Seeds	120	149	105	6
Reeds	—	—	3	16
Rice	—	22	16	—
Sandalwood	53	64	8	3
Sennit	—	4	—	—
Shell—Turtle	568	509	603	1,022
Skins	1	1	14	31
Soap	—	—	—	9
Syrup...	—	—	225	272
Tea	253	205	79	542
Carried forward ...	2,613	2,646	3,934	3,415

	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward ...	2,613	2,646	3,934	3,415
Timber	2	—	6	18
Tobacco Seed	—	—	39	—
Turtles	60	25	5	55
Vanilla	—	43	37	325
Yams	6	124	85	10
Yaqona	—	1	—	—
	2,681	2,839	4,106	3,813

34. The foregoing somewhat lengthy list is more indicative of possibilities than of their fulfilment.

It may be pointed out that the export of Molasses fell off owing to the manufacture of Spirit. Molasses is also used as a fertiliser, and this use may prevent or reduce its export in the future.

There has never been any regular export of Tobacco. In 1891 a trial shipment of the common native leaf was made, but did not prove successful. The cultivation of the finer classes of Tobacco, to which attention is now being given in the Colony, may alter this state of affairs in future years.

The majority of these minor exports are of a more or less casual nature ; but there are indications that some, such as Coffee and Rice, may increase in the near future ; although in both cases there is a considerable local market which has first to be supplied.

Navigation.

35. The Number and Tonnage of merchant vessels entered at the two ports of entry in the Colony during each of the past four years are shown hereunder :—

Year.	Steam Vessels.		Sailing Vessels.		Total.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1893	71	64,710	21	10,721	92	75,431
1894	96	115,476	39	13,186	125	128,662
1895	121	108,006	21	10,527	142	118,533
1896	98	103,168	34	12,302	132	115,470

FIJI. 1896.

36. The number and tonnage of vessels entering at Suva and Levuka respectively during each of the past four years are as follows :—

	1893.		1894.		1895.		1896.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Suva	81	71,666	110	123,711	120	110,911	116	112,131
Levuka ...	11	3,765	25	4,951	22	7,622	16	3,339

The intercolonial steamers, however, with rare exception, enter at Suva and proceed to Levuka under a coasting license, The foregoing figures therefore represent only the direct trade with Levuka in cases where it does not pass through Suva.

37. The Nationality of the vessels visiting the Colony is shown in the following table :—

Nationality.	1893.		1894.		1895.		1896.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British	79	68,421	124	120,716	127	108,970	121	110,179
American ...	2	429	4	3,255	4	1,563	4	1,179
Danish	—	—	1	613	—	—	—	—
German ...	3	2,002	—	—	—	—	1	324
Italian	—	—	1	879	—	—	—	—
Japanese ...	—	—	1	1,169	—	—	—	—
Norwegian ...	5	3,174	3	1,971	10	7,954	6	3,788
Tongan ...	1	59	1	59	1	46	—	—
Nicaraguan ...	2	1,346	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	92	75,431	135	128,662	142	118,533	132	115,470

38. The number and tonnage of local sailing vessels holding sea-going certificates from the Marine Board during the year 1896 was—

	No.	Tons.
European-owned Vessels	116 ...	1,376
Native-owned Vessels	199 ...	1,706
Total ...	315	3,082

I have, &c.,

HORACE G. C. EMBERSON,
Receiver-General.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 229.

GAMBIA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 195.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

May 1898.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.; and
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1898.

[C.—8650-27.] *Price* ½*d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No	Colony.	Year.
196	Malta	1896
197	British New Guinea	1895–96
198	Turks and Caicos Islands	1896
199	Barbados	„
200	Leeward Islands	1895
201	Trinidad and Tobago	1896
202	Gibraltar	„
203	Fiji (Trade)	„
204	Straits Settlements	1895
205	Do. do.	1896
206	Falkland Islands	„
207	British Honduras	„
208	Sierra Leone	„
209	Grenada	„
210	Hong Kong	„
211	St. Lucia...	„
212	St. Vincent	„
213	St. Helena	„
214	Seychelles	„
215	Mauritius	„
216	Cocos–Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1897
217	Fiji	1896
218	Ceylon	„
219	Lagos	„
220	Gold Coast	„
221	Labuan	„
222	British Guiana	1896–97
223	Rodrigues	1896
224	Basutoland	1896–97
225	Jamaica	„
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate	„
227	Leeward Islands·	1896
228	Bermuda	1897

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.

No. 229.

GAMBIA.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 195.)

ADMINISTRATOR LLEWELYN to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Bathurst, Gambia,
29th March 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1897, together with my Report thereon.

I have, &c.,

R. B. LLEWELYN,
Administrator.

REPORT ON THE GAMBIA BLUE BOOK FOR 1897.

It is gratifying to be able to commence this report on the Gambia for the Jubilee year of Her Majesty by stating that in every way it was one of the most peaceful and prosperous that has occurred in Her Majesty's long reign.

2. The export of the staple product of ground nuts was 20,000 tons, as against 12,000 tons in the year 1896, and, as the average value of the nuts was better, I believe all the mercantile firms enjoyed a very prosperous year.

3. The export of rubber also improved, and prices in Europe advanced considerably; so this, too, helped to materially increase the general trade of the Colony. The total value of the exports was £164,000, and of the imports £140,000 (exclusive of specie transactions). The average for the five previous years 1892–6 being: exports £142,000, imports £115,000.

16745*—75—5/98 Wt 21620 D & S—5 (B)

4. With such a good business for the Colony, it is not to be surprised at that the Revenue nearly reached £40,000; and, as the Expenditure was less than £28,000, the Colony was able to wipe off the small deficit of about £700, and close the year 1897 with a surplus of £11,300.

5. I may perhaps be excused for believing that part of the success is due to the continued peace and improvement in administration in the Protectorate attached to this Colony—for, after working here for seven years, I trust I am justified in my remark, that the Gambia Protectorate is progressing most satisfactorily, and far better than was anticipated.

6. In the present state of affairs here, fresh legislation of any sort can be dispensed with, except in gradually keeping up to date some of the ordinary laws which exist in all civilized communities; and therefore, the only Ordinances passed during the year were such as those relating to the market, the slaughter-house, and hawking—all of which are practically municipal.

7. The Board of Health in the town of Bathurst is composed, with one exception, of officials; and their duties, which are principally those of keeping the town clean and healthy, may, I think, be considered to have been satisfactorily performed, from the return of the number of deaths, as given below, in each year since the year 1891, when I first came here, and organized this official Board.

1891	...	...	...	657
1892	...	...	...	638
1893	...	...	...	611
1894	...	...	...	575
1895	...	...	...	503
1896	...	...	...	393
1897	...	...	...	365

8. I may here also remark that the year 1897 was, I believe, the first on record in which no death occurred amongst the European population, notwithstanding the fact that the rainfall was only 33·61 inches, against an average of 57·08 inches (*see* Meteorological Return attached), and that hitherto it has always been considered that a light rainfall—such as occurred last year—produced an unhealthy season.

9. The rates on house property, assisted by a grant of £200 per annum from the general Revenue—practically an equivalent for the rates on Government buildings—suffice to cover all the expenses, about £650 per annum, of keeping the town clean, and lighting the streets, &c., but the general Revenue is charged with the maintenance of the drains, the erection of the latrines, sinking of wells, and such like works of a permanent character.

10. I think it is freely admitted that the buildings, both private and public, in Bathurst—and the cleanly neat appearance of the town and streets in general—are not to be equalled anywhere in the English Colonies on the West Coast of Africa; and the Gambians are justly proud of it.

11. The celebration of Her Majesty's Jubilee in June was naturally the event of the year, and the greatest loyalty was manifested by all classes, including the Head Chiefs, and many others from the most distant parts of the Protectorate.

12. Public subscriptions were raised for—

(1) Providing amusements, including sports and fireworks.

(2) For a permanent memorial in the erection of a Female Hospital, with the special object of training—by European nurses—native female nurses in the Colony, which scheme is now under further consideration.

13. The gift of the Government to the people in celebration of the event was the freeing from tolls of the Oyster Creek Bridge, thus uniting closer with Bathurst the old part of the Colony of British Kommbo and the new Protectorate of Foreign Kommbo, making it all happily now known as "Kommbo."

14. The whole of the rejoicings passed off without a single breach of the peace, or hitch of any sort. and, considering the large concourse of persons from the interio., representing different tribes and creeds, not always friendly disposed towards each other, I think it reflects the greatest credit on all, and tends further to show the general peace and quiet that now prevails in these regions.

15. I may here appropriately insert a paragraph relating to the Criminal Statistics of the Colony, which show a still further decrease, in all respects, on the very low figures of the previous year. Then I was able to report that the figures for 1896 were the lowest reported, and I now give the actual figures in 1896 and 1897 for comparison :—

——	1896.	1897.
Offences	175	112
Daily average number in prison	17	13

16. By far the most important and interesting work in the Gambia is that accomplished in the Protectorate, and I am happy

GAMBIA. 1897.

to be able to report that continued progress in every way has attended the efforts that have been made during the last four years to advance civilization, and establish a suitable system of administration.

17. The Travelling Commissioners have made their presence felt in every town, and are now looked upon as welcome guests. One of the secrets of their success is that, by "travelling," instead of remaining at a head station in a district, they get to know the people in their homes. I realize myself—for I have visited nearly every town in the Protectorate—that there is a great advantage in letting the people see a Governor, or his representative, if even only for a day. It gives confidence, down to the smallest child, and the people feel that the Government is really and practically taking some interest in them.

18. The work of the Tax Collector is then simplified, and I am pleased again to be able to report that all the "Hut Tax" has been paid in cash without the slightest difficulty of any sort. The total Revenue collected in the Protectorate was £2,540, and the Expenditure £2,085, so that, in three years, the cost of Protectorate officers, &c., has been covered by the direct taxes raised in the Protectorate.

19. The introduction of a cash trade, instead of barter, in the Protectorate, is bearing fruit. It has encouraged the people in the Protectorate to plant, and it has attracted people into the Protectorate from elsewhere—which is not to be wondered at, for the African, like everyone else, recognizes that money has its value everywhere, and he can obtain with it what he actually wants in any country.

20. I wish that I could also report that some additional Europeans with capital had entered into the Protectorate; but there are signs that this will soon follow, for I hope it is now realized in Europe that property is as safe in the Protectorate as in any Colony; and as a proof of the security that is felt, I may mention that merchants in Bathurst are now able to insure in European offices their produce and buildings against fire in the Protectorate—and two or three substantial trading stations, with iron roofs, &c., were erected last year. What stronger certificate is required than this that peace and security to life and property are now established in the Gambia Protectorate?

R. B. LLEWELYN,
Administrator.

28th March 1898.

COMPARATIVE RAINFALL, COLONY OF THE GAMBIA.

——	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.
January	·02	—	—	—	—
February	—	—	—	—	—
March	—	—	—	—	—
April	·40	·07	—	—	—
May	2·16	—	—	0·24	0·12
June	3·29	5·33	0·86	3·69	1·65
July	20·57	16·54	12·00	12·97	8·11
August	30·57	18·64	36·63	17·30	10·27
September	13·00	13·35	12·34	11·96	11·84
October	7·33	1·29	2·95	4·96	1·49
November	·15	·64	2·08	—	0·13
December	·40	—	—	0·06	—
Total	77·89	55·86	66·86	51·18	33·61

Average, 57·08.

R. M. FORDE, *Colonial Surgeon.*

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS, 1897.

1897. Months.	Average for month at 7 A.M.			Maximum in shade at 3 P.M.			Minimum in shade at 7 A.M.			Rainfall in inches.		
	Dry Bulb.	Wet Bulb.	Dew-point.	Highest.	Lowest.	Average.	Highest	Lowest.	Average.	Total.	Maxi-mum.	Date.
January	67·9	60·4	54·4	92·5	77·5	83·2	75	60	65·01	—	—	—
February	68·8	58·7	50·7	98	81	89·3	71·5	60·5	65·2	—	—	—
March	71·5	67·9	65·1	102·5	71	87·1	73	65	68·7	—	—	—
April	73·7	68·9	65·7	103	79	90·08	74·5	66	70·7	—	—	—
May	75·1	70·4	66·9	99·5	78·5	82·4	75·5	67·5	71·7	0·12	0·12	27/5/97
June	78·7	75·03	72·3	93	83·5	87·2	78	72	75·5	1·65	0·97	17/6/97
July	78·5	77·7	77·1	90	81	85·5	79	71·5	75·3	8·11	1·42	13/7/97
August	78·7	74·1	70·9	89·5	79·5	85·9	80	72·5	76·1	10·27	1·83	24/8/97
September ...	77·9	76·06	74·7	89	80·5	85·8	80	71·5	74·9	11·84	3·24	9/9/97
October	79·5	76·1	73·7	94	81·5	88·3	79·5	72·5	76	1·49	0·88	8/10/97
November ...	75·2	68·9	64·6	92	74	86·6	78	64	73·4	0·13	0·06	27/11/97
December... ...	68·4	55·2	44·7	89·5	79	84·3	71·5	59	66·6	—	—	—

(Total Rainfall for 1897, 33·61 inches.)

R. M. FORDE, *Colonial Surgeon.*

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

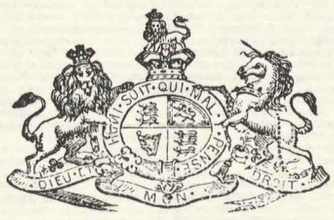
No. 202.

GIBRALTAR.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1896.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 171.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
August 1897.



LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 1-3, Great St. Thomas Apostle, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, Hanover Street, Edinburgh, and
90, West Nile Street, Glasgow; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., Limited, 104, Grafton Street, Dublin.

1897.

[C.—8650.] *Price* 1*d*.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
169	Zululand	1895
170	Sierra Leone	„
171	Gibraltar	„
172	Malta	„
173	Barbados	„
174	Turks and Caicos Islands	„
175	Falkland Islands	„
176	St. Helena	„
177	Bahamas	„
178	Hong Kong	„
179	Windward Islands	„
180	Labuan	„
181	Trinidad and Tobago	„
182	Seychelles	„
183	Mauritius and Rodrigues	1894 and 1895
184	British Honduras	1895
185	Lagos	„
186	Basutoland	1895–96
187	Ceylon	1895
188	British Guiana	1895–96
189	Gold Coast	1895
190	Jamaica	1895–96
191	Canada	1895
192	Bermuda	1896
193	Bahamas	„
194	Zululand	„
195	Gambia	„
196	Malta	„
197	British New Guinea	1895–96
198	Turks and Caicos Islands	1896
199	Barbados	„
200	Leeward Islands...	1895
201	Trinidad and Tobago	1896

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.

No. 202.

GIBRALTAR.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 171 of this Series.)

GOVERNOR SIR R. BIDDULPH to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Gibraltar,
July 12, 1897.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book for 1896, together with a report by the Colonial Secretary.

2. It is with regret that I notice the large falling off in the number of ships which used this Port during the past year,—a decrease entirely in British shipping, since there was a considerable increase in the tonnage of foreign shipping which entered Gibraltar.

3. Notwithstanding this falling off which affects our principal head of revenue, it is satisfactory to find that the total revenue shows an increase of Pesetas 33,584 over that for 1895, and has been sufficient to provide for extraordinary expenditure, which increased the ordinary expenditure by 12½ per cent.

4. The Colonial Secretary's report draws attention to the loss accruing to the public by the use of a depreciated currency. I need only add that the actual loss suffered by the Government in making their necessary remittances to England amounted to 31,000 Pesetas, and that the value of the dollar, which is 4s. at par, fell to 3s. 2¼d. during the year, and has since fallen to 3s. 1d. There is reason to expect that it will fall still lower.

5. I need only refer to the Colonial Secretary's report for further observations on the transactions of the year 1896.

I have, &c.,

ROBERT BIDDULPH,
General and Governor.

14225*—75—7/97 Wt 20613 D&S—5 (B)

GIBRALTAR. 1896.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1896.

Revenue.

The gross revenue for 1896 was Pesetas 1,581,785, an increase of Pesetas 33,584 over that for 1895, as may be seen from the following comparative statement :—

	1895. Pesetas.	1896. Pesetas.
Customs	289,505	295,773
Port Dues	361,716	338,046
Licences, &c.	136,855	140,534
Fees of Office, &c.	277,043	255,634
Post and Telegraph Office	276,683	343,515
Rents	192,172	193,961
Interest	6,065	10,591
Miscellaneous...	8,162	3,731
Total Pesetas	1,548,201	1,581,785

The increase under head of Customs was in the duty on spirits, the demand being probably due to the large number of men coming into Gibraltar daily for the various large works.

Port Dues show the only serious decrease, being Pesetas 23,670 less than in 1895. This was due to the smaller number of vessels calling here, the reasons for which are given under the head of shipping.

Licences show a small increase partly due to the number of foreign workmen referred to above, to meet whose requirements fresh eating-houses have been opened, and food is also supplied to them by licensed hawkers.

The decrease of Pesetas 21,409 in Fees of Office, &c. is due to the profits of the Savings Bank in 1895 having been swelled by the receipt of a refund of four years income tax.

The exceptional increase of Pesetas 66,832 in the Post Office receipts, while partly owing to increase of business, was chiefly caused by the purchase by dealers of large quantities of high value stamps of denominations about to be withdrawn from circulation.

The other items call for no special report, the increase in Interest being caused by additional investments of the previous year.

Expenditure.

The total expenditure in 1896 was Pesetas 1,508,705 as against Pesetas 1,385,275 in 1895.

A comparison of the mere totals, however, is no guide as to whether the expenditure is really increasing or not, as they include both the ordinary expenditure, without which the administration of the Government cannot be carried on, and the

extraordinary expenditure, which is only incurred when justified by the means at the disposal of the Government or the beneficial result to be derived.

In the following table a separation of these is effected :—

Ordinary Expenditure.	1895. Pesetas.	1896. Pesetas.
1. Establishments	1,144,999	1,143,566
2. Pensions	68,551	66,571
3. Ecclesiastical	25,220	25,220
4. Public Works Annually Recurrent	48,200	47,015
5. Miscellaneous	64,103	59,815
Total Pesetas	1,351,073	1,342,187
Special Expenditure.		
1. Public Works Extraordinary ...	23,742	114,131
2. Miscellaneous	10,460	52,387
Total Pesetas	34,202	166,518
Grand Total Pesetas	1,385,275	1,508,705

In dividing the heading "Miscellaneous" for the purposes of the foregoing comparison, the amount shown under "Ordinary Expenditure" includes all the small miscellaneous services which recur every year, and that shown under "Special Expenditure" includes special grants and other charges peculiar to the year in which they were incurred.

From the above table it will be seen that the Current or Ordinary Expenditure is not increasing, but showed a small decrease of Pesetas 8,886 as compared with 1895, in which year a saving of Pesetas 53,100 had been effected over the preceding year, so that the ordinary services of the Government are being carried on with steady economy.

The excess of Pesetas 41,927 of special miscellaneous payments in 1896 over 1895 is caused by the payment of Pesetas 12,500 towards the building of the Hebrew Poor School, a grant which was sanctioned in 1893 but not claimed until 1896, and by the payment to Major Tulloch, of back salary due to him as Consulting Engineer for the Drainage Works, from September, 1892, to September, 1896, amounting to Pesetas 23,880. There was also a payment of Pesetas 7,405 to Mr. W. H. Preece, Consulting Engineer for electric lighting, as salary while engaged in preparing the plans of the works, but as these works have since been started and are now in progress, the salary of the Consulting Engineer will in future be charged to that head.

In "Public Works Extraordinary" the increase is more than accounted for by the charges on the New Drainage Works amounting to Pesetas 86,875, and on the Electric Lighting Works

GIBRALTAR. 1896.

to Pesetas 12,249. That these heavy extra charges have been met from General Revenue, and that we have still been able to show a cash balance of Pesetas 58,432 at the close of the year, gives, I think, reasonable ground for satisfaction.

Shipping.

Vessels entered and cleared.

Vessels.	Number.		Tonnage.		Crews.	
	1895.	1896.	1895.	1896.	1895.	1896.
British steam ships	5,952	5,442	7,281,251	6,688,261	200,545	188,423
British sailing ships	482	330	41,298	30,560	2,484	1,821
Total British ships	6,434	5,772	7,322,549	6,718,821	203,029	190,244
Foreign steam ships	1,859	2,007	1,675,708	1,866,428	66,346	74,112
Foreign sailing ships	861	747	79,999	75,682	5,489	4,993
Total Foreign ships	2,720	2,754	1,755,707	1,942,110	71,835	79,105
Grand total - -	9,154	8,526	9,078,256	8,660,931	274,864	269,349
Decrease - -	628		417,325		5,515	

The above table shows a very serious falling off in the Shipping, the more serious because 1895 itself showed a decrease of 1,087 in the number of vessels entering and clearing as compared with 1894. The falling off is largely attributed to the depression in the grain trade, and this is supported by the fact that the difference in the number of vessels from Black Sea ports calling at Gibraltar in 1896, as compared with 1895, was alone almost sufficient to account for the above decrease. It is somewhat reassuring to find that, in their report for 1896, the Gibraltar Chamber of Commerce are able to speak of a revival of the shipping trade during the closing months of last year, a revival which has been well maintained during the first five months of the current year. The Chamber of Commerce also refer to the increased facilities for coaling and for other business afforded by the Government by the removal of restrictions formerly existing, and it is hoped that as these facilities become more widely known they may materially assist in attracting vessels to the port. Gibraltar cannot, however, hope to compete on even terms with Algiers and other Mediterranean Coaling Ports until we are able to afford to vessels the security and the other advantages of an enclosed harbour such as those ports already possess.

Exchange and Currency.

The Blue Book reports for years past tell the same story of a steady fall in the value of the Spanish currency, which has been

adopted as the legal tender of Gibraltar. At the time of its adoption it seems to have been anticipated that, among the Countries of the Latin Union at all events, exchange would not greatly vary, but that the franc, the peseta and the lire would represent about the same value. The expectation has not been realised, and at the International Telegraph Convention, held at Buda Pesth in 1896, the franc having been accepted as the medium of account, the exchange value of the franc was fixed with the consent of the Spanish Delegates at Pesetas 1·20, subject to revision before the Convention should take effect on the 1st July, 1897. That revision has now taken place, and the value of the franc been fixed at Pesetas 1·29 for accounting purposes, the rate to be settled afresh every quarter. The report on the Blue Book for 1895 mentions Pesetas 29·50 as being generally accepted as the rate below which the value of the sovereign is not likely to fall, but to-day that rate must be increased at least 7 per cent., the daily rate not having been under Pesetas 31·50 for several months, and having latterly ruled at Pesetas 32·15 at which it stands to-day. Such a state of affairs cannot be viewed without grave anxiety by those responsible for the finances of Gibraltar, but a report of this nature, which is only explanatory of the returns in the Blue Book and of the causes for their variation from those of former years, is not the place in which to proffer reasons for the depreciation of the currency of a foreign country, or to suggest means whereby Gibraltar may be saved from the consequences thereof. It is enough to draw attention to the facts which the pages of the Blue Book themselves disclose.

The Quarterly Rates for 1896 were :—

March Quarter	... ...	Pesetas 29·38
June „	... ...	„ 30·26
September „	... ...	„ 29·86
December „	... ...	„ 29·75

At the time of writing this Report the quarterly rate is Pesetas 31·95.

Public Works.

No large works have been undertaken in the past year with the exception of the Electric Lighting, the works in connection with which have made fair progress. Good progress has been made with the Main Sewerage Works, which, however, are not being carried out by the local Government, which only contributes its proportionate share of the cost, the entire control of the works being vested in the Consulting Engineer. The public buildings generally are in good condition.

Legislation.

Twelve Ordinances were passed during 1896. Of these the most important were, No. 2, "The Sanitary Loans Ordinance,"

under which the system of raising these loans was altered, and greater facilities were afforded for registration and exchange of the debentures ;

No. 5, "The titles to Lands Order Amendment Ordinance" by which the system of registration of Deeds has been amended on the lines now adopted in England ;

No. 7, "The Port Order Amendment Ordinance" to give increased powers to the Governor to provide for the convenience and security of vessels entering the Port, and to facilitate the removal of sunken vessels and other obstructions ;

No. 8, "The Savings Bank Amendment Ordinance" to limit deposits and to remedy defects in the existing law ;

No. 9, "The Tobacco Ordinance" to regulate the trade in tobacco and to provide for proper supervision over its export ; and

Nos. 11 and 12 respectively, "The Summary Jurisdiction (Married Women) Ordinance," and "The Mortgagees Legal Costs Ordinance" which were to adapt the local legislation to the Imperial Statutes passed in 59 and 60 Victoria.

Vital Statistics.

The past year has been a very healthy one. The number of births registered was 664, equal to a rate of 25·03 per thousand ; the number of deaths being only 453, equal to 17·07 per thousand, a very low death rate which shows the value of the work of the Sanitary Commissioners in this very crowded town.

Education.

The number of children on the books of the aided private schools was somewhat less, being 1,656, with an average attendance of 1,267, as compared with 1,779 with an average attendance of 1,331 in 1895. The difference arose from the closing of the Wesleyan Schools and of the Hebrew Poor School. The handsome and commodious buildings for the latter are now completed, and it is expected that a very large number of the children of that congregation, who do not attend the schools of other denominations, will reap the benefit. An attempt has been made to obtain statistics from the private schools which do not seek State aid, and returns have been received from several, the whole number of children under tuition in these schools being shown as 635. The largest of the unaided schools is the excellently conducted middle class school of the Christian Brothers on the Line Wall, which has 129 boys on the books and an average attendance of 123. The whole number of children shown as attending school in Gibraltar is 2,291, not including those taught in the Military Schools.

Criminal Statistics.

The number of offences reported to the Police during the year was 1,336, of which 1,321 were brought to trial. These figures show a sensible falling off as compared with the previous year, when 1,450 offences were reported, and 1,431 brought to trial. This is the more creditable as the number of persons visiting Gibraltar by day has much increased, the average number entering the gates daily and leaving again at night being now between 8,000 and 9,000.

Of the 1,321 cases brought before the Magistrate, 405 were discharged, 19 were committed for trial in a superior Court, and 897 were summarily convicted, mostly for trivial offences, only 36 being sentenced to short terms of imprisonment without the option of a fine.

Of the cases sent for trial only five were convicted, three being for manslaughter and two for larceny. The Gaol maintained its high state of efficiency, and the health of the prisoners was excellent. The average number in confinement was between 17 and 18.

Hospitals and Asylum.

The condition of these Institutions is very satisfactory, and reflects much credit on the capable staff. The number of outdoor patients attending the dispensary at the Colonial Hospital had so greatly increased that it was found necessary to discontinue the supply of medicines gratis, except to patients of the poorer class. A nominal charge of half a peseta is now levied for each prescription made up at the dispensary for persons not furnished with a certificate from the proper authority that they are not in a position to pay. This has had the effect of saving the hospital considerable loss, while the charge is not heavy enough to deter patients from attending.

The grounds of the Lunatic Asylum have been much improved, and the institution will compare favourably with that of any Colony.

General.

The other returns call for no special remark, as they show little variation from those of previous years. The important works now in progress, Military, Naval, and Civil, employ some thousands of able-bodied men, the majority of whom have to be drawn from the neighbouring Spanish territory. Their good behaviour has been universally remarked on by those who have witnessed the crowded state of the streets when they are going to and returning from work, and the absence of anything like disorder speaks well not only for the law-abiding disposition of the people, but also for the tact and judgment shown by the police in dealing with them.

GIBRALTAR. 1896.

The coal trade showed a slight falling off, but the early months of the present year have presented a marked improvement. General trade is greatly depressed, as, though many thousands of pounds are paid away monthly in wages to the people of the surrounding towns, the closing of the Linea Custom House and the stringent measures adopted to prevent the introduction of goods or provisions from Gibraltar allow but a small portion of the earnings of these people to find its way into our shops. By a Spanish Royal Decree published in September last, the Custom House at Linea was declared open to a limited number of articles, but, in addition to the duties, such heavy fees are exacted for entries, and so many other obstacles are thrown in the way of importers, that trade by land between Gibraltar and Linea has practically ceased.

The general trade by sea between Gibraltar and the first-class Custom House at Algeciras has also been materially hampered by the imposition of fresh and harassing restrictions, among others those compelling the small craft carrying goods between Gibraltar and Algeciras to make Customs declarations and to provide themselves with documents never before required.

H. JACKSON,
Colonial Secretary.

Gibraltar,
July 3, 1897.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 220.

GOLD COAST.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1896.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 189.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

December 1897.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 1-3, Great St. Thomas Apostle, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, Hanover Street, Edinburgh, and
90, West Nile Street, Glasgow; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., Limited, 104, Grafton Street, Dublin.

1897.

[C.—8650-18.] *Price 2d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions, have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
186	Basutoland	1895–6
187	Ceylon	1895
188	British Guiana	1895–6
189	Gold Coast	1895
190	Jamaica	1895–6
191	Canada	1895
192	Bermuda	1896
193	Bahamas...	,,
194	Zululand	,,
195	Gambia	,,
196	Malta	,,
197	British New Guinea	1895–6
198	Turks and Caicos Islands	1896
199	Barbados...	,,
200	Leeward Islands	1895
201	Trinidad and Tobago	1896
202	Gibraltar	,,
203	Fiji (Trade)	,,
204	Straits Settlements	1895
205	Do. do.	1896
206	Falkland Islands	,,
207	British Honduras	,,
208	Sierra Leone	,,
209	Grenada	,,
210	Hong Kong	,,
211	St. Lucia...	,,
212	St. Vincent	,,
213	St. Helena	,,
214	Seychelles	,,
215	Mauritius	,,
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	,,
217	Fiji	,,
218	Ceylon	,,
219	Lagos	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.

No. 220.

GOLD COAST.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 189 of this Series.)

ACTING-GOVERNOR GRIFFITH to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Accra,
15th October, 1897.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you a report by Mr. Haddon Smith, Acting Colonial Secretary, on the Blue Book for 1896.

I have, &c.,
W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH, C.J.,
Deputy for Governor.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE GOLD COAST COLONY FOR 1896.

REVENUE.

1. The Gold Coast Colony has no Public Debt. On the 31st December 1896 the amount of surplus funds invested on account of the General Account of the Colony was valued by the Trustees at £30,908 5*s.* 1*d.*; the value on the same date in the previous year was £63,164 10*s.* 5*d.*; the difference of £32,256 5*s.* 4*d.* is caused by the sale during 1896 of securities which it became necessary to realize owing to the heavy charges caused by the Ashanti Expedition. The payments on account of the Expedition during the year under review amounted to £31,095 16*s.* 4*d.*, and miscellaneous expenditure in connection with the occupation and administration of Ashanti caused a

15023*—75—11/97 Wt 20613 D & S—5 (B)

GOLD COAST. 1896.

further charge upon the Colony of £13,816 3*s.* 11*d.* It is interesting to note here that the annual increase in expenditure, which has been continuous since 1890, would have ceased in 1896, and that the expenditure of the latter year would have shown a decrease as compared with that of 1895 of £27,923 10*s.* 6*d.*, but for the demands upon the Revenue owing to the occupation of Ashanti. From increase in trade in the territory now at last made accessible to merchants, the Colony may gradually expect to see an increase in Imports, and consequently in the Customs Revenue.

2. The subjoined statement shows the years in which the Revenue exceeded the Expenditure and the amount of such excesses :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1890	38,549	16	4
1891	52,614	16	0
1892	24,970	14	4
1893	22,848	5	9

3. The Expenditure was in excess of Revenue in the following :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1887	17,092	11	9
1888	35,660	17	6
1889	13,614	6	1
1894	8,670	13	9
1895	35,213	13	1
1896	44,817	9	1

4. The net Revenue collected during 1896 amounted to £237,460 6*s.* 7*d.*, being £7,384 13*s.* 9*d.* in excess of that collected in the previous year.

5. The following table gives a comparison of the Revenue for the last two years, classified under the principal heads :—

Items of Revenue.	1895.			1896.			Increase.			Decrease.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Wines, Spirits, Tobacco, Guns, &c. (Specific duties).	157,163	0	11	162,849	11	7	5,686	10	8	—		
General Merchandize (*ad valorem* duty).	40,579	17	4	42,126	1	0	1,546	3	8	—		
Liquor Licenses ...	6,347	10	0	6,586	12	6	239	2	6	—		
Stamps (Postal, Telegraph and Revenue).	9,952	14	3	11,448	18	5	1,496	4	2	—		
Other items	16,032	10	4	14,449	3	1	—			583	7	3
Total Revenue £	230,075	12	10	237,460	6	7	7,384	13	9	583	7	3

STAMPS.

6. 499 Documents were submitted during the year for assessment and stamping, and 1,076 Documents for stamping without the Commissioner's certificate. 5,028 Bills of Lading were also stamped. The Revenue so derived amounted to £1,224 14*s.* 11*d.*, and a further sum of £80 was collected for penalties.

LOCAL REVENUE.

7. Independently of Customs Duties there is no direct taxation, neither are there, as yet, any municipal rates; some progress was, however, made in 1896 with the preliminaries necessary for the creation of a Town Council at Accra, which will necessitate the levying of rates at Accra and Christiansborg.

EXPENDITURE.

8. There was expended during the year 1896 a total sum of £282,277 15*s.* 8*d.*, being £16,988 9*s.* 9*d.* more than the expenditure for the previous year. The following are the principal heads under which an increase appears :—

——	1895.	1896.	Causes.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	
Ashanti Special Expedition.	16,279 11 0	31,095 16 4	——
Public Works	49,994 6 9	52,459 13 5	Supply of Materials and Stores.
Constabulary	32,657 3 8	35,561 3 8	Arrears of pay due in 1895.
Educational	5,699 2 4	6,765 16 9	Grants to Schools and Supplies.
Pensions and Gratuities	3,734 4 10	4,770 2 4	Arrears for 1895 paid in 1896.
Supreme Court, &c. ...	16,209 0 9	16,802 13 0	Salaries for 1895 paid in 1896.

GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK.

9. The deposits show an increase of £2,701 as compared with those of the previous year; the deposits for the year are £7,249 13*s.* 9*d.*, while the withdrawals are (including interest) £7,286 16*s.* 3*d.* Interest credited to Depositors amounts to £127. 7*s.* 0*d.* The total amount credited (including interest) during the year was therefore £7,377 0*s.* 9*d.* and the withdrawals £7,286 16*s.* 3*d.* From this it is apparent that the business of this institution is almost stationary.

GOLD COAST. 1896.

10. The following is a comparative statement showing the number of Depositors, also the total amounts at each Savings Bank in the Colony during the years 1895–6 :—

District.	No. of Depositors.				Total amount deposited.			
	1895.	1896.	Increase.	Decrease.	1895.	1896.	Increase.	Decrease.
					£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Accra.. ..	121	141	20	—	2,024 3 11	4,020 0 3	1,995 16 4	—
Addah ..	77	60	—	17	143 9 1	278 19 4	135 10 3	—
Axim	15	19	4	—	33 5 4	203 16 5	170 11 1	—
Cape Coast ..	52	51	—	1	1,439 5 0	1,298 9 6	—	140 15 6
Chama ..	6	6	—	—	51 10 7	139 4 11	87 14 4	—
Elmina ..	27	31	4	—	358 18 11	487 5 4	128 4 5	—
Kwitta ..	18	23	5	—	243 13 0	204 17 3	—	40 15 9
Saltpond ..	26	31	5	—	207 0 6	482 19 0	275 18 6	—
Tarkwa ..	42	44	2	—	164 14 2	169 2 1	4 7 11	—
Winneba ..	4	5	1	—	7 4 4	92 6 8	85 2 4	—
Totals ..	388	411	41	18	4,675 4 10	7,377 0 9	2,883 7 2	181 11 3

11. The Savings Bank system appeals to a small minority of the population, namely, the educated natives living at a few trading-centres on the coast. It hardly touches the mass of the illiterate population, who would far sooner bury their money or turn it into jewelry than trust it to the safe keeping of any one, even a Government Savings Bank. From the following analysis it will be seen that the classes which contribute the largest number of Depositors are Government officials and labourers (employed for the most part by Government), and that the traders have few representatives.

Occupation of Depositors.	No. of Accounts.
Auctioneers	1
Bakers	2
Barristers	5
Bootmakers	3
Blacksmiths	2
Bricklayers	—
Cabinet Makers...	1
Clerks	44
Editors	1
Engineers	3
Goldsmiths	4
Institutions, &c.	27
Labourers	51
Messengers	1
Miners	6
Ministers of Religion	4
Government Officials (Europeans)	30
„ „ (Natives)	74
Overseers	1
Photographers	2
Carried forward ...	262

Occupation of Depositors.	No. of Accounts.
Brought forward ...	262
Police	18
Printers	1
School Children	5
„ Masters and Mistresses	10
Servants...	18
Tailors	1
Traders	20
Occupation not stated	76
Total	411

12. The large number of withdrawals suggests the conclusion that a number of the Depositors simply use the Bank as a safe and convenient place in which to keep money for brief periods. It is to be feared that few Depositors really acquire, from the habit of resorting to the Savings Bank, a notion of the real importance of thrift and of gradually accumulating a sum which will be available in time of need.

13. The total amount at the credit of the Savings Bank in the books of the Colony is £5,668 17*s.* 6*d.* Of this amount £4,099 14*s.* 0*d.* has been invested and is in the hands of the Crown Agents.

TRADE.

Imports and Exports.

14. The total value of the Imports in 1896 was £910,210 and the value of the Exports £792,111, thus making the total value of the trade of the Colony for the year £1,702,321, a decrease of £107,018 on the year 1895 in which the Imports and Exports were valued at £1,809,340. The decrease shown in these statistics may perhaps be partly explained by the prohibition of the gunpowder trade for a time, and by the employment of a large number of people in Ashanti who were withdrawn from their ordinary pursuits in the Coast provinces.

15. The following table shows the state of the trade of the Colony for the last seven years, that is, since the present Customs Tariff has been in force :—

Year.	Imports.		Exports.	Totals.
	Paying duty.	Admitted free.		
	£	£	£	£
1891	464,188	201,593	684,304	1,350,086
1892	422,026	175,068	665,064	1,262,158
1893	475,346	243,006	722,106	1,440,460
1894	607,109	205.721	850,343	1,663,173
1895	653,357	278,179	877,803	1,809,340
1896	647,682	262,528	792,111	1,702,321

GOLD COAST, 1896.

16. Notwithstanding the unfavourable result of the foregoing comparison of the trade statistics of 1895 and 1896, the value of the trade of the latter year was greater than that of any year prior to 1895; this may be taken as a healthy sign.

17. The principal articles of trade are :—

Imports.

Cotton, woollen and silk goods, spirits, hardware, rice flour, provisions, tobacco, building materials, and wearing-apparel.

Exports.

Palm oil, palm kernels, rubber, gold dust, timber and minor industries such as coffee, cocoa, monkey skins, and Kola nuts.

18. It is shown by the following comparative tables that the greater proportion of the trade is with the United Kingdom :—

Imports.

Year.	From the United Kingdom.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Totals.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1891	483,392 18 3	5,085 6 10	177,302 17 11	665,781 3 0
1892	407,037 16 10	9,924 13 11	180,132 1 8	597,094 12 5
1893	524,036 16 1	8,719 5 10	185,597 2 4	718,353 4 3
1894	582,273 14 8	13,168 14 1	217,388 0 1	812,830 8 10
1895	630,000 7 6	91,164 18 7	210,371 15 6	931,537 1 7
1896	659,561 11 10	31,483 19 5	219,164 19 2	910,210 10 5

Exports.

Year.	To the United Kingdom.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Totals.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1891	545,492 16 6	2,035 5 0	136,776 18 2	684,304 19 8
1892	471,218 19 10	2,035 13 9	191,791 9 8	665,064 3 3
1893	530,300 1 5	27,016 16 7	164,790 1 1	722,106 19 1
1894	608,258 6 7	29,765 3 1	212,320 1 3	850,343 10 11
1895	586,415 1 5	38,211 6 2	253,177 4 8	877,803 12 3
1896	536,106 4 0	37,471 5 1	218,533 14 9	792,111 3 10

19. The Customs receipts during the year at the principal ports of the Colony were as follows :—

Port.	Imports, exclusive of Spirits, Gunpowder and Guns.	Spirits.	Gunpowder.	Guns.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£	£
Axim... ...	5,759	7,974	396	87	14,217
Cape Coast ...	16,643	20,735	2,193	546	40,119
Saltpond ...	6,929	17,470	2,037	258	26,695
Winneba ...	2,475	15,037	704	44	18,261
Accra ...	16,214	28,400	2,539	201	47,355
Adda ...	3,698	10,558	79	21	14,357
Kwitta ...	2,636	11,080	181	45	13,943
Other Stations	3,908	25,135	961	20	30,024
Totals £	58,265	136,391	9,093	1,224	204,975

20. The following statement shows the general classification of all Imports and Exports :—

Articles.	Value in Sterling.	
	Of Imports in detail, including expenses.	Total value, including expenses
	£	£
I.—Live animals, food, drink, and narcotics.	—	240,840
II.—Raw materials :—		
(*a*) Textile	—	—
(*b*) Metal	3,483	—
(*c*) Other	33,665	37,149
III.—Manufactured articles:		
(*a*) Textile	265,956	—
(*b*) Metal	55,049	—
(*c*) Other	207,722	528,728
IV.—Coin and Bullion ...	—	103,492
Total ... £	—	910,210

Articles.	Value in Sterling.		Totals.
	Produce and Manufacture of the Colony.	British and Foreign and other Colonial Produce and Manufacture.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
I.—Live animals, food, drink, and narcotics.	34 0 0	1,459 17 3	1,493 17 3
II.—Raw materials :—			
(*a*) Textile	—	—	—
(*b*) Metal	86,273 6 5	—	86,273 6 5
(*c*) Other	631,768 12 8	—	631,768 12 8
III.—Manufactured articles:			
(*a*) Textile	—	2,635 6 9	2,635 6 9
(*b*) Metal	—	680 1 4	680 1 4
(*c*) Other	22 2 6	2,650 19 5	2,673 1 11
IV.—Coin and bullion ...	—	66,586 17 6	66,586 17 6
Totals ... £	718,098 1 7	74,013 2 3	792,111 3 10

21. The supply of the staple articles, such as palm kernels, palm oil, and rubber, has not been satisfactory, but whether this has been due to bad prices, or to the withdrawal of a large number of able-bodied men from their ordinary avocations to serve as carriers in the Ashanti Expedition, or to other causes, it is not easy to determine.

22. The following figures show the trade in three important Exports for the last three years :—

Year.	Palm Oil.		Palm Kernels.		Rubber.	
	Gallons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Lbs.	Value.
		£		£		£
1894	4,213,935	237,623	17,136	112,373	3,027,527	232,550
1895	4,338,627	231,415	15,559	93,384	4,022,385	322,070
1896	2,394,563	126,857	13,046	85,349	3,735,439	313,817

23. The following statement shows the quantity and value of rubber exported from the Gold Coast to the undermentioned countries during 1896 :—

Countries.	Quantity.	Value.
	Lbs.	£
United Kingdom	3,307,685	283,044
Germany ...	424,093	30,398
Belgium ...	3,661	375

In the previous year 3,597,052 lbs., valued at £294,325, were exported to the United Kingdom, while 424,197 lbs., valued at £27,610, were shipped to Germany.

24. It is hoped that native collectors of rubber have at length realised that the only economical method of drawing-off the sap from the tree is to tap it, and that to fell the tree is most wasteful and destructive. Those who travel in the forests can now see the trees scored with vertical and lateral incisions. Without the co-operation of the natives effective Government supervision for the protection of rubber trees is impossible, and forest laws would therefore be a dead letter.

25. The export of timber has largely increased during the year under review as compared to 1895 ; the timber country of the Colony is the Western District, the ports of shipment being Axim and Chama. The following statement will serve to show the trade of the industry for the last six years :—

Year.	Quantity.	Value.
	Feet.	£
1891	1,350,226	22,096
1892	2,130,614	36,407
1893	3,412,486	50,428
1894	5,012,670	69,405
1895	3,587,337	28,244
1896	6,063,381	52,233

GOLD COAST. 1896.

26. It is stated that the native lumbermen damage the trade by cutting down trees irrespective of their defects and imperfections, and that consequently the market is flooded with defective timber. Defects may be of various descriptions, such as those enumerated under the following technical headings :—

"Hollow portion,"
"Shakes,"
"Star Shakes,"
"Knots" (not greatly detrimental to the value of the log provided they are small),
"Wormed."

27. The dimensions of mahogany logs most in demand are 16 to 30 feet in length and 24 to 36 inches square.

28. The cultivation of coffee and cocoa is still in its infancy in the Colony ; plantations near the coast suffer from the scarcity of fresh water, while if situated far from the port of shipment transport becomes a varying item to the producer. Notwithstanding many disadvantages the export of coffee and cocoa shows a very fair increase as will be seen by the following table :—

Year.	Cocoa.		Coffee.		Copra.		Guinea-grains.		Kola-nuts.	
	lbs.	Value.	lbs.	Value.	lbs.	Value	lbs.	Value.	Packages.	Value.
		£		£		£		£		£
1893	3,460	93	21,437	630	248,304	831	183,224	621	979	25,716
1894	20,312	546	41,488	1,265	649,600	1,940	174,412	1,186	1,202	28,511
1895	28,906	470	51,755	1,753	482,608	1,712	154,693	580	2,352	30,565
1896	86,754	2,275	141,836	4,065	273,840	852	26,594	193	3,156	33,278

29. Monkey skins are scarcer than formerly, the increasing warfare carried on against the unfortunate animals which supply this article of commerce having resulted in the extermination of the species in the less distant provinces. In 1894, 168,405 skins, valued at £41,001 were exported, whereas in 1896 the number of skins fell to 67,660, valued at £8,662.

30. The Gold Mining industry is carried on chiefly in the Wassaw district, and much public attention was called to it, and to the difficulties (mainly that of transport) which retard its development, during the year. This was principally due to the prominent place given to this subject in an address which the Governor (Sir William Maxwell) delivered to the African section of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce in July. The Colonial Government determined to improve communication between Tarkwa and the Ankobra River, and a vote was inserted in the Estimates for 1897 for this purpose.

31. The following table shows the weight and value of gold exported from the Colony during each of the last seven years :—

Year.	Weight.	Value.		
	Oz.	£	*s.*	*d.*
1890	25,460	91,657	0	0
1891	24,476	88,112	0	0
1892	27,446	98,805	17	0
1893	21,972	79,099	4	0
1894	21,332	76,795	17	5
1895	25,416	91,497	12	0
1896	23,941	86,186	7	2

32. Judging from trade statistics, the consumption of alcohol has undergone a considerable reduction in the year 1896. There appears to be no reason to think that a demand for spirituous liquors is spreading among the native population.

33. In the following table is given a comparison of the importations of wines and spirits in the Gold Coast Colony during the years 1895 and 1896, from which it will be seen that the fall in the quantity of rum has been very considerable ; gin and whisky have also been imported in decreased quantity.

Description of Liquor.	Quantity imported.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1895.	1896.		
	Old Wine. Gals.	Old Wine. Gals.	Old Wine. Gals.	Old Wine Gals.
Rum	1,007,340	833,135	—	174,205
Gin and Geneva	333,219	330,804	—	2,415
Whisky	12,769	11,432	—	1,337
Brandy	677	822	145	—
Wines...	18,956	22,177	3,221	
Ale and Porter	23,214	26,220	3,006	—
Liqueurs, &c.	2,426	2,189	—	237
Totals	1,398,601	1,226,779	6,372	178,194

SHIPPING.

34. The number of vessels was practically the same as in 1895, but the tonnage was greater. The figures are as follows :—

Nationality of Vessels.	Sailing Vessels.				Steamers.			
	1895.		1896.		1895.		1896.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
United Kingdom...	3	642	1	105	271	380,213	254	366,857
Germany	—	—	4	1,540	79	92,765	87	108,168
France	3	875	—	—	45	49,469	50	65,870
Italy	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
United States ...	7	3,269	9	4,670	—	—	—	—
Other Nations ...	1	222	2	559	4	11,604	9	19,199
Totals ...	14	5,008	16	6,874	399	534,051	400	553,794

35. The mail service with England has improved as regards the time occupied by the outward voyage. Communication between Europe and the West African Colonies continues to be almost exclusively in the hands of the African Steamship Company and the British and African Steam Navigation Company, the large majority of whose steamers are of less than 300 horse-power, and are admittedly built for a coasting trade. No contract exists between the Government and these Companies for the carriage of mails according to a time-table.

LEGISLATION.

36. During the year 1896 the Legislative Council passed 15 Ordinances, of which the following are the more important :—

37. Ordinances Nos. 1, 2 and 12 of 1896 provide for the detention during Her Majesty's pleasure of Prempeh, the late King of Kumasi, his father and mother, and certain of his chiefs.

38. Ordinance No. 3 of 1896, "The Village Sites Ordinance," empowers the Governor to set apart Government land as a village site, whereon houses can only be built on certain conditions.

39. Ordinance No. 6 of 1896, "The Telegraphs Amendment Ordinance, 1896," is a short but useful Ordinance empowering the Governor to place any section of a telegraph line under a native chief, whose duty it then becomes (1) to preserve such section from injury, and (2), in the event of injury to the line, to report the same forthwith to the Commissioner of the District. The further duty is imposed on any such chief, and on the inhabitants of his town or village, of rendering active assistance in arresting any person who maliciously damages the telegraph line. For a breach of this duty the chief and village may be fined by the Governor.

40. Ordinance No. 7 of 1896, "The Ferries Ordinance, 1896," empowering the Governor to declare any ferry (1) whose owner has been in the habit of levying tolls not sanctioned by native custom, or (2) which has been neglected or mismanaged, or (3) which is the subject of rival claims, or (4) whose owner has consented to its transfer to the Government on compensation being given, to be a Public Ferry. Provision is made for fixing the tolls of Public Ferries and for the letting out of such tolls to contractors, and power is given to the Governor in Council to make rules regulating the management of Public Ferries.

41. Ordinance No. 8 of 1896, "The Survey Ordinance, 1896," provides for the appointment of official and private surveyors, and contains sundry provisions facilitating survey by compelling owners to attend and point out boundaries and give information. The Ordinance also provides for the upkeep of boundary marks when once made.

42. Ordinance No. 9 of 1896, "The Weights and Measures Ordinance, 1896," practically applies to this Colony the main provisions of the Imperial Weights and Measures Acts. The Imperial Standard Pound, Gallon and Yard are taken as the basis of the weights and measures to be used in the Colony, and the various parts and multiples of the pound, gallon and yard that may be lawfully used in trade dealings are set forth in schedules. Provision is made for obtaining Colonial standards and duplicates thereof for the purpose of verifying weights and measures in the Colony. Provision is also made for the inspection and marking of weights and measures and weighing machines. The Ordinance contains the usual provisions with respect to offences in relation to weights and measures, and the Governor in Council is empowered to make rules as to fees for marking, &c. of

weights and measures, and generally for carrying the Ordinance into effect.

43. Ordinance No. 10 of 1896 provides for the detention, in the Colony, of Nana, the Ex-Chief of Benin.

44. Ordinance No. 13 of 1896, "The Compulsory Labour Continuance Ordinance, 1896," continues for another year the Compulsory Labour Ordinance of 1895.

45. Ordinance No. 14 of 1896, "The Reprint of Statutes Ordinance, 1896," an Ordinance authorising the present Chief Justice to prepare a revised edition of the Local Ordinances.

POST OFFICE.

46. Postal business shows an increase. The falling off of inland money orders is very marked, but the value of foreign money orders has more than doubled itself as compared with 1895; the following comparative table will show the steady increase of work in the Department:—

Year.	No. of Offices open.	Estimated No. of Letters, &c., posted.	No. of Registered Articles dealt with.	Money Orders.			Inland Postal Orders.	Parcels Post.		
				No. of Offices open.	Value of Inland Orders.	Value of Foreign Orders.		No. of Offices open.	No. of Parcels.	Receipts.
					£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.			£ s. d.
1888	17	111,041	7,836	2	1,939 8 2	6,709 3 7	—	3	826	31 19 11
1889	26	146,905	9,739	2	1,209 19 1	4,572 2 6	—	3	1,407	35 14 6
1890	26	161,726	10,862	2	1,681 11 11	3,481 18 0	—	3	1,902	102 8 9
1891	30	205,053	11,227	3	1,985 1 4	5,142 18 11	—	3	2,368	146 8 9
1892	31	225,293	12,362	5	3,193 8 0	7,251 1 11	—	3	2,379	104 19 1
1893	31	335,112	15,956	5	3,787 11 2	9,525 13 7	1,231 3 6	7	2,762	216 6 0
1894	32	386,028	18,068	5	3,382 9 3	9,888 19 0	2,021 7 6	7	3,224	247 5 3
1895	32	390.502	17,474	5	1,679 5 11	15,397 9 0	2,150 13 6	7	3,518	273 1 9
1896	35	545,824	19,324	5	1,590 6 8	32,616 19 3	2,489 9 6	7	3,563	292 15 5

GOLD COAST. 1896.

47. It must be recorded that during the year three new Post Offices were opened, including one at Kumasi, the Capital of Ashanti, with which there is weekly postal communication from Cape Coast and Accra, the journey taking 9 or 10 days.

48. The Postal Revenue for the year was £602 14*s.* 7½*d.* in excess of that of 1895. The Department obtained a special revenue of £771 15*s.* 1*d.*, the proceeds of stamps sold to foreign stamp dealers in Europe and elsewhere during the year. 3,890 bags were brought to the Colony and 3,198 bags were despatched from the various Post Offices in the Colony, as against 3,115 received and 4,040 despatched during the year 1895.

TELEGRAPHS.

49. Telegraphic communication with Kumasi was effected by means of a military field wire during the Ashanti Expedition. During 1896 this was replaced by a permanent line, constructed by the Colonial Telegraph Department. On the 31st December, 1896, the telegraph line was completed to within a distance of 25 miles from Kumasi, and by March 1897 had reached Kumasi.

50. The following table will show the steady increase both in the number of messages sent and also in the receipts for the last six years :—

Year.	Number of Offices.	Miles of Wire.	Number of Telegrams dealt with.				Receipts.		
			Public.	Government.	Cable.	Total.	Inland Telegram.	For Cable Company.	Totals.
							£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1891	13	210	17,513	21,157	1,274	39,944	1,015 10 9	1,586 17 1	2,602 7 10
1892	16	265	19,773	25,365	1,516	46,654	1,182 18 4	1,822 7 0	3,005 5 4
1893	18	368	27,934	30,063	2,034	60,031	1,822 7 0	2,466 7 7	4,288 14 7
1894	20	375	38,129	31,717	3,920	73,766	2,293 8 2	2,377 1 3	4,670 9 5
1895	21	415	40,869	35,861	4,956	81,686	2,509 2 9	2,906 2 5	3,415 5 2
1896	24	512	41,303	38,551	4,876	84,730	2,620 13 1	3,182 11 3	5,813 4 4

GOLD COAST. 1896.

51. Interruptions are unfortunately frequent. This is attributable to many causes; for instance, the Kumasi line goes through a dense forest, with the result that falling trees and branches break the wire, and the line along the coast is affected by the action of the sea-spray, causing corrosion of the copper conductor, which gives way under the first strain experienced in the shape of a stiff breeze or tornado.

Considerable lengths of wire have been stolen from time to time, the copper wire being valued by the natives for making armlets; in one case, in the year 1896, 240 yards were stolen. Cases of this kind eventually led to restrictive legislation.

DEFENCES.

52. The Gold Coast Constabulary is recruited from the Hausa country within the territory of the Royal Niger Company, and also from the Mohammedan States in the bend of the Niger, due north of the Gold Coast Colony. The force is nominally 1,048 strong, but is much under strength, and the men are armed with the Martini-Metford carbine; it is also provided with Maxim guns and 7-pr. M.L.R. steel guns. 195 men were enlisted in 1896, 54 took their discharge, 17 died, and 28 deserted. The discipline of the Force is good.

VOLUNTEERS.

53. The strength of the Force is 280, and the sum expended by Government in maintaining it £1,147 19*s.* 1*d.*, showing a cost to the Government in respect of each Volunteer of £4. The Force is recruited chiefly from the Government and mercantile clerks, with whom it is popular.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

54. The general health of the Colony during the year 1896 shows little or no improvement on that of the previous year. In 1896 there were amongst the European population, 11 deaths of officials, and 30 non-officials, as against 15 and 23 respectively during 1895. The number of Europeans invalided during 1896 was the same as in the previous year, viz., 58. An epidemic of a malignant type of fever was prevalent during the first four months of the year, the period in which the greater number of deaths occurred.

55. The health of the native population was also unsatisfactory.

56. The Government are taking all practicable measures to improve the conditions of life; at Accra, the seat of Government, the erection of bungalows at Victoriaborg has

removed the dwellings of the officials from the thickly populated part of the town. Bungalows are also being erected at out-stations for the use of officers, and the removal of the residences of white men from squalid surroundings and sources of contamination is being insisted upon as much as possible.

57. One of the main improvements in the Medical Department has been the completion of the new wing at the Central Hospital, which contains on the upper floor three wards and a sitting-room, well built and airy, for the exclusive use of Europeans. This was practically completed in 1896.

RAINFALL.

58. The total rainfall for the year was 39·31 inches, as compared with 17·33 inches in 1895, the heaviest rainfall in one month being 13·62 inches in the month of May. There was no rain in February, and only ·03 in August, and ·09 in October.

LUNATIC ASYLUM.

59. The following table shows the number of lunatic patients treated in the Government Lunatic Asylum since its establishment in 1887.

Public Lunatic Asylum, 1896.

Year.	Admitted.		Discharged.						Deaths.		Remaining.	
			Cured.		Relieved.		Not Improved.					
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1887	14	14	5	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	11	5
1888	17	3	3	—	—	—	1	—	8	3	16	5
1889	10	3	5	2	—	—	—	—	4	1	17	5
1890	12	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	6	1	20	4
1891	10	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	24	6
1892	21	2	7	—	—	—	1	—	6	1	31	7
1893	8	4	—	—	—	5	2	—	2	—	32	9
1894	22	6	—	—	11	—	—	—	3	—	40	15
1895	11	4	—	—	12	1	—	—	6	2	33	14
1896	12	9	—	—	6	3	—	—	4	3	33	16

GOLD COAST. 1896.

60. The table given below will show the classification of the diseases of the patients treated in the lunatic asylum in 1896 :—

Disease.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Mania	23	8	31
Melancholia	7	2	9
General paralysis	2	—	2
Epilepsy	2	2	4
Dementia	—	1	1
Other diseases, idiotcy, &c.	1	—	1
Totals	35	13	48

PUBLIC WORKS.

61. Though none of the large public works contemplated, such as the Central Prison, Hausa Cantonment, New Public Offices and Court House, were undertaken in 1896, a number of useful works, such as new quarters for officers, new ward, general hospital, a club house, rest houses, &c., were commenced, and in many instances completed. The fort at Kumasi deserves separate mention. It was begun soon after the departure of the troops from Kumasi in January 1896, but was not complete at the end of the year. The residency is within the fort.

62. The total expenditure of the Public Works Department for 1896 amounted to £67,738 2*s.* 10*d.*, classified as follows :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Establishment	15,034	15	7

Recurrent Expenditure.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Departmental and miscellaneous charges ...	4,784	7	3
Upkeep of town roads, streets, and bridges ...	1,426	4	2
Maintenance of trade roads	2,578	6	9
Repairs to buildings	3,359	1	9

Extraordinary Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
New works and buildings...	30,115	11	6
Alterations and additions to buildings	1,971	13	3
New roads and improvements of roads	3,769	9	1
Lands acquired	393	13	8
Miscellaneous	4,394	19	10

63. The main roads, the bridges, and the public buildings throughout the Colony have been maintained in good order, and many improvements have been effected.

64. The construction of all the roads is under the Public Works Department; but the maintenance of trade roads, that is to say, the duty of obliging the native chiefs and their men to clear and broaden their native paths, is under the different District Commissioners.

65. The construction of a main drain at Accra, which was in progress in 1896, should have a beneficial result on the health of the town; it occupies the place of an old watercourse in which the surface drainage of the greater and most populous part of Accra collected. The new drain, lined with cement and constructed with attention to levels, empties itself into the lagoon to the west of the town.

66. The principal new roads undertaken were the construction of the road from Accra to the Akim District, a distance of 16 miles, at a cost of £95 per mile, and the Danoe Dogplata road, which in the year had been completed for 15 miles.

Experimental Well Boring.

67. Experiments in boring for water have been tried in the neighbourhood of Accra, the total depth bored being 206 feet; the result was not satisfactory, the water being found brackish and unsuitable for potable purposes. Water was struck at a depth of 148 feet. Further experiments are proceeding.

Railways.

68. Two railway surveys were commenced in 1896, one from Accra to Kumasi *via* Insuaim, and the other from Takoradi Bay to Tarkwa; the latter is supposed to go through the mining and timber district. In connection with possible railway projects attention is being paid to the selection of a suitable place for a boat harbour.

POLICE.

69. The strength of the police force at the close of 1896 was 345; the number of men enlisted during the year was 164. Only seven per cent of the recruits speak English, and considering that the officers are unable to speak the language of the men the details of duty are too much in the hands of native non-commissioned officers, and the difficulty of working the department satisfactorily can be understood.

PRISONS.

70. The daily average number of prisoners in custody during the year was 138, against 146 in the previous year. There was, however, an increase in the number of convictions. The number of female prisoners has considerably increased, though juvenile offenders have decreased by 8 as compared with 1895.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Juveniles.	Totals.
1892	1,475	48	11	1,534
1893	1,513	61	15	1,589
1894	1,550	74	20	1,644
1895	1,859	101	46	2,006
1896	2,044	273	38	2,355

71. Discipline has been well maintained in the prisons, and the mark system works satisfactorily.

72. The several prison buildings are reported as being in good order; the prisons at Accra and Elmina are Dutch Forts converted for the purpose but not suitable for carrying out modern prison discipline. It is contemplated to erect a central prison at Accra, and until this is done and the separate system introduced, little improvement is to be expected.

73. Seven executions took place in the prisons during the year 1896.

74. The health of the prisoners was good; the following statement contains health statistics for the prisons for the last five years:—

Year.	Total number of Prisoners.	Treated in Hospital.	Total attendances or out Patients.	Deaths.
1892	1,534	240	12,338	16
1893	1,589	337	9,262	27
1894	1,644	339	5,773	17
1895	2,006	729	10,661	37
1896	2,355	340	3,473	26

75. The number of punishments inflicted on prisoners during the year was 773. 22 prisoners received corporal punishment.

76. There were five escapes during the year. In three cases the men were recaptured.

EDUCATION.

77. Elementary education in the Gold Coast Colony is steadily progressing. During the year 1896, fifteen new schools were added to the list of schools receiving a grant-in-aid, thus bringing the total number of inspected schools for the year to 115—an advance of 15 per cent. In addition to the 115 inspected schools, there are about 70 other schools belonging to the various Missions not yet under inspection, so that there may be said to be nearly two hundred elementary schools, in which the greater part of the instruction given is in English. During 1896 a Government school was opened at Insuaim, in Western Akim. In that year also the first examination was held for the Gold Coast Government Scholarships.

78. There is not yet much provision for higher education in the Colony, though the establishment of the above-named scholarships should give a stimulus to effort in this direction.

79. Industrial work in connection with the schools is steadily increasing, and includes now some 1,000 scholars, who are receiving systematic instruction in plantation work and other industries. Thirty-five schools are provided with coffee plantations, while classes for carpentry, smith's-work, brick-making, and book-binding exist in several other schools.

GOLD COAST. 1896.

80. Reading, writing, and arithmetic in English are taught in all the inspected schools; while in the large town schools, intelligent instruction is also given in geography, history, grammar, singing, book-keeping, shorthand, and in the case of girls, plain needlework.

81. The principal statistics which are necessary to illustrate the progress of Elementary education in the Gold Coast Colony will be found in the subjoined statements A and B.

A.—*Totals for the year* 1896.

Schools.	On Books.	Average attendance.	No. examined.	Teachers examined.	Grant earned.
					£ s. d.
115	11,205	8,558	9,675	79	3,400 11 0

82. The 115 inspected schools comprise 40 belonging to the Basel Mission Society, 53 belonging to the Wesleyan Society, 16 belonging to the Roman Catholic Mission Society, and 6 Government schools. Of the 11,205 scholars in attendance at the inspected schools only 2,183 are girls.

B.—*Classification of the Scholars.*

Denomination.	St. VII.	St. VI.	St. V.	St. IV.	St. III.	St. II.	St. I.	SS. II.	SS. I.	Infants.
Basel Mission ...	25	42	59	68	103	151	209	372	381	1,100
Wesleyan do. ...	43	79	154	234	347	405	584	457	778	1,352
R. Catholic do....	5	10	30	79	109	142	208	216	285	703
Government ...	2	8	43	55	66	73	84	89	94	431
Totals ...	75	139	286	436	625	771	1,085	1,134	1,538	3,586

83. These numbers compare very favourably with those of previous years, there being an increase in all classes.

BOTANICAL.

84. Samples of the coffee and cocoa grown at the Government gardens were sent to England in 1896. The Liberian coffee fetched 70*s*. per cwt., and cocoa fetched 37*s*. per cwt.

85. The authorities of Kèw kindly sent some Indian Jute seed to the Botanical Gardens; this seed was sown and germinated freely ; the plants were allowed to remain for seed ; this when ripe was harvested, the seed cleaned, and a large quantity has been distributed to the natives.

86. The gardens have been visited on three occasions by swarms of locusts which have done much damage ; another source of destruction to the plants is the borer, which plays great havoc with the trees, especially the Arabian coffee ; specimens of these borers have been obtained, and have been sent to Kew for investigation and report.

GENERAL REMARKS.

87. When the year 1896 began, the Ashanti Expedition was in progress. The political circumstances which led to this were described in paragraph 11 of the Annual Report for 1895. On Friday, 17th January, the troops entered Kumasi, the capital of Ashanti, without having fired a shot, the Governor arrived in the capital the next day, and, on Monday, the 20th January, 1896, Prempeh, the King of Ashanti, made his submission to the Governor. The sight was most impressive, and not likely to be forgotten by those who witnessed it. The action of the Governor received the entire approval of Her Majesty's Government. Prempeh was removed to the coast, and was detained at Elmina Castle until the end of 1896, when he and the other political prisoners were removed to Sierra Leone. The Governor made a tour through some of the Ashanti provinces, visiting Insuta, Aguna, Mampong and Bekwai before returning to the coast.

88. Captain D. Stewart was appointed to be Resident of Kumasi, but Colonel Pigott (21st Hussars) acted as Resident for a great part of 1896, and did much to improve trade roads. A force of 300 Hausas was placed at Kumasi, and the erection of a fort was commenced. Trade however revived very shortly during 1896.

89. The Expedition cost the Colony £120,000. Putting aside the possible gain to trade that the annexation of Ashanti may bring about, the gain to humanity alone should justify this outlay.

90. The Basel Mission established a mission station at Kumasi in 1896, and started a school, where there are already 15 Ashanti

GOLD COAST. 1896.

children. The same mission has since established schools in the following Ashanti towns:—Mampong, Agona, Kumason, Kwamang, Nsota, Kwaso and Dweso.

91. Merchants have also acquired sites at Kumasi for the erection of stores.

92. Native States in the bend of the Niger, lying directly north of Ashanti and within the British sphere of influence, were disturbed and in some cases invaded in force by the armed bands of Samory, the well-known Mohammedan slave-raider.

93. The assertion of our legitimate rights in the Hinterland of the Gold Coast Colony received special attention in the last two months of 1896, and missions were despatched to the north under Captain Stewart and Lieutenant Henderson, resulting in the occupation of Mamprusi in December 1896 and Dagarti in January 1897.

G. B. HADDON SMITH,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,

Accra, West Africa,

16th October, 1897.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

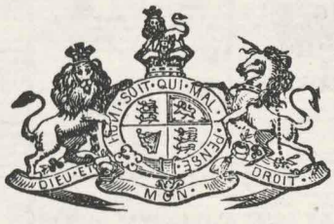
No. 209.

GRENADA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1896.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 179.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
October 1897.



LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 1-3, Great St. Thomas Apostle, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, Hanover Street, Edinburgh, and
90, West Nile Street, Glasgow; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., Limited, 104, Grafton Street, Dublin.

1897.

[C.—8650-7.] *Price* 1*d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
178	Hong Kong...	1895
179	Windward Islands...	,,
180	Labuan	,,
181	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
182	Seychelles	,,
183	Mauritius and Rodrigues	1894 and 1895
184	British Honduras	1895
185	Lagos	,,
186	Basutoland	1895–96
187	Ceylon	1895
188	British Guiana	1895–96
189	Gold Coast	1895
190	Jamaica	1895–96
191	Canada	1895
192	Bermuda	1896
193	Bahamas	,,
194	Zululand	,,
195	Gambia	,,
196	Malta	,,
197	British New Guinea	1895–96
198	Turks and Caicos Islands...	1896
199	Barbados	,,
200	Leeward Islands	1895
201	Trinidad and Tobago	1896
202	Gibraltar	,,
203	Fiji (Trade)...	,,
204	Straits Settlements	1895
205	Do. do.	1896
206	Falkland Islands	,,
207	British Honduras	,,
208	Sierra Leone	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.

No. 209.

GRENADA.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 179 of this Series.)

GOVERNOR SIR ALFRED MOLONEY to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Grenada,
28th August, 1897.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Report on the Blue Book for 1896 of the Colony of Grenada which has been prepared by Mr. Leslie Probyn, the Acting Colonial Secretary.

I have &c.,

ALFRED MOLONEY, Governor.

ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF 1896.

During the year 1895 the fall in the price of cocoa, combined with the effects resulting from a short crop, led to a withdrawal of advances upon cultivation. Other effects took place in sympathy, with the result that the position of many became trying, if not critical. The statistics for 1896 have a special interest as showing in many ways the manner in which the Colony has met the strain.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The year 1896 started with a surplus of £587 and closed with a deficit of £1,182.

The Assets comprise three items which require comment, viz.: (*a*) Other Advances, (*b*) Arrears of Revenue (Parochial Board), (*c*) Stores.

"Other Advances" include a sum of £221 repayment of which is improbable as the amount is an advance in connection

14672*—75—9/97 Wt 20613 D & S—5 (B)

with a scheme for electric lighting which is not being proceeded with. (*b*) "Arrears of Revenue" include arrears of interest due from the Grenville Parochial Board amounting to £1,117 which it is feared will have to be treated as a bad debt. (*c*) "Stores" shown in the assets as worth £1,373 are in reality of less value as the total given is based upon the original cost of the stores when purchased.

PUBLIC DEBT.

The Public Debt at December 31st, 1896, amounted to £127,770 as against £113,190 at December 31st, 1895. Of this amount £26,205 is owing by the Parochial Boards.

With the exception of £4,100 secured by debentures carrying 4½ per cent. interest, the whole debt of the Colony is at 4 per cent. and is secured by stock issued under the authority of Ordinance No. 5 of 1891, which compels such stock to be issued in accordance with the Colonial Stock Act (Imperial) 1877.

REVENUE.

The Revenue for the year was £56,274, being £6,097 less than the estimated Revenue.

Comparison with the revenue of previous years shows :—

	£
Average Revenue for five years 1889-1893 -	53,751
Revenue for 1894 (highest on record) -	63,021
Revenue for 1895 - - - - -	58,467

Thus it will be noticed that, although the revenue of 1896 was £2,193 less than that of 1895, it was nevertheless £2,523 higher than the average revenue for the five years previous to 1894. On the other hand it has to be remembered that during the period 1889-1893 the import duties were lower and that during the last two months of 1896 the Export Duties Ordinance was in operation.

The decrease in revenue as compared with 1895 (£2,193) is shown chiefly under the head of land sales, in which occurs a decrease of £1,206 due to the fact that there were no important sales of escheated land, the balance of the decrease, viz. £987, being very evenly distributed amongst all the remaining heads of revenue.

EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure for the year was £60,523, being £795 less than the estimated expenditure and £3,152 less than the expenditure in 1895, but £4,248 in excess of the actual revenue.

Comparison with previous years shows :—

	£
Average expenditure for five years 1889-1893 -	55,700
Expenditure in 1894 - - - -	59,594
Expenditure in 1895 - - - -	63,675

Reverting to the figures quoted above in connection with the revenue during the period 1889-1893, it will be remembered that the revenue in 1896 was £2,523 greater than the average revenue during the years 1889-1893. The expenditure in 1896, however, was £4,822 greater than during the period named, thus showing a disproportionate increase in expenditure of £2,299.

' increase is, of course, due to several causes.

' Charge on account of Public Debt " was £4,504 in 1894, ..0 in 1895, and £6,385 in 1896, thus accounting for an ..crease of £1,881 in 1896 as compared with 1894.

The " Charge on account of Public Debt " includes, however, the Sinking Fund, which was increased in 1896 by £1,231.

The expenditure in 1895 was abnormal, being the highest on record. For the purpose of comparison it is better to compare the figures of 1896 with those of 1894.

The expenditure upon personal emoluments amounted to £1,293 more in 1896 than in 1894 in spite of there being a decrease (due in part to the amalgamation of the departments) of £307 in the Treasury and £167 in the Post Office. The largest increase is under Head " Legal," due in part to an increase of £300 in the salary of Attorney General, the other chief increases being £383 in " Police " and £365 in the Medical Service.

The expenditure upon " other charges " (*i.e.* all expenditure other than on personal emoluments) in 1896 was £34,849, being £365 less than the corresponding expenditure in 1894. But for the already alluded to increase (£1,881) in the charges for the public debt, there would therefore have been a considerable decrease in the expenditure upon " other charges " in 1896 as compared with 1894, and this in spite of there being an increase of £1,008 upon Education.

The increase in " Miscellaneous " and the decrease in " Post Office " is apparent only, being due to the mail contract being debited to the former account in 1896 instead of, as in 1894, to the Post Office.

The real cause of there being a decrease of £365 upon " other charges " in 1896 as compared with 1894, in spite of the large increase in Public Debt charges and in Education, is due to there having been a saving of £603 in the charges against the Medical Department, £220 in Prisons, and £1,550 in Public Works.

Although, however, the expenditure of 1896 is in some respects satisfactory as compared with that of 1894, it must be borne in

GRENADA. 1896.

mind, as already pointed out, that it is considerably in excess of the average expenditure during the period 1889-1893, a result due chiefly to the increase in debt charges and to increased expenditure upon Roads and Education, and lastly, to a minor extent, to an increase on "personal emoluments."

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The correctness of these returns is largely beyond Government control from the fact that the materials from which they are made are supplied by the importing and exporting firms. Another source of error arises from the possibility of miscalculation in the percentages which are added to the imports and exports to represent freight, packages, &c.

Assuming, however, the accuracy of the returns for 1895 and 1896, a comparison between the two is of interest and would be of greater value were it not for the big proportion of "unenumerated" goods which is shown in both returns.

The imports in 1896 were £21,308 less than in 1895, while the exports were greater by £9,384.

The totals of imports and exports between the Colony and other British Colonies show little variation during the two years 1895 and 1896, although there are changes in the direction of the trade. For example, the imports from British North America amounted in 1896 to £1,658 as against *nil* (according to the returns) in 1895, the imports from Barbados increased by £1,500, while those from Trinidad diminished by £1,000.

A very great change, however, occurs in the returns of imports and exports from and to the United Kingdom and Foreign Countries. Thus, while the imports from the United Kingdom diminished £11,593 or 14·8 per cent., those from Foreign Countries diminished £10,066 or 18·1 per cent.

The exports were still more favourable to the United Kingdom, as they amounted to £169,499 in 1896, showing an increase of £28,763 over those of 1895, while the exports to Foreign Countries fell to £8,593, a diminution of no less than £17,074.

These results may, however, be in part due to error; for example, imports from the United States declined in 1896 by £9,863, and it is possible that the trade from British North America (showing an increase from *nil* in 1895 to £1,658 in 1896) was included in 1895 in that from the United States.

Imports.—Of the £21,308 decrease in the 1896 imports £14,071 is due to the decrease in Class I.—"food and drink supplies, live animals, &c." (being about 16·5 per cent. upon the 1895 figures), and £5,675 is due to the decrease in Class II.—"raw materials" (being a decrease of about 33·2 per cent.).

With the exception of tea, wines, and jewelry (the imports of which in 1896 vary but little from those in 1895) and of "books"

(which show an increase of £257 in 1896 as compared with 1895), all luxuries show a decrease. Accepting the accuracy of the figures, as a wide generalization it may therefore be said that there has been no diminution in the luxuries of the luxurious but a marked diminution in the luxuries of the poor.

In point of fact, with the exception of an increase under about 12 heads, a decrease shows itself all down the import list, the items in which the diminution exceeds £1,000 being—

	£
Horses, mules, &c. - - -	1,015
Flour (wheaten) - - - -	3,879
Meat (dried) - - - -	1,637
Molasses - - - - -	1,104
Sugar - - - - -	2,348

The diminution in molasses and sugar is noteworthy, and that it is probably due to an increase in local production is indicated by the fact that the quantity of rum manufactured in the Colony rose to 52,897 gallons, being an increase of 9,530 gallons.

The imports of coffee in 1895 amounted to £222 and were practically *nil* in 1896, a fact which, coupled with an increase of £150 in the exports of that commodity in 1896, indicates that the latter is likely to take its place permanently amongst the exports of the Colony.

The list of decreases in the imports of 1896 as compared with 1895 shows a total of over £27,000. From this total, however, has to be deducted the increases in certain imports, the chief items being :—

	£
Fish (dried) - - - - -	938
Timber - - - - -	309
Soap - - - - -	406
Boots - - - - -	817

There is also an increase of no less than £3,623 in "manufactured leather other than boots and shoes." Probably, however, this class of imports was included in 1895 in the unenumerated class.

The details shown in the import returns show a considerable contraction in the trade with the United States. Thus there was a diminution in the following imports from that country : butter, flour (wheaten), lard oil, pease, rice (trade extinct), spirits (trade extinct), sugar, tobacco, coal (large diminution), petroleum, timber (large diminution), and soap. On the other hand the imports from the United States increased under the following heads, dried fish, lard, oats (slight), rope, books (slight), although in each of the imports named the trade from the United Kingdom diminished. The large amount of transhipment at Barbados and Trinidad makes it, however, impossible to draw from these isolated figures any deduction as to the true direction of trade.

Exports.—The *net* increase in exports amounts as already stated to £9,384. The chief increase was in cocoa and amounted to £20,999, against which has to be set a decrease of £8,561 in spices and £1,352 in logwood.

The increase of £150 in coffee has already been alluded to.

The exports to France in 1896 diminished by £18,567 and those to the United Kingdom increased by £28,763. This change is partly accounted for by the higher prices obtainable in the United Kingdom for the better class of cocoa. Many charters optional on London or Havre are, however, entered into, and some of the decrease in the exports to France may be due to want of information as to the option having been exercised in favour of a port in that country.

SHIPPING.

There has been a decrease in the tonnage of shipping, both steam and sailing, as shown by the following figures :—

	1894.	1895.	1896.
Steam (tons) -	229,289	240,088	210,740
Sailing (tons) -	12,573	14,889	10,655

An interruption in the coaling contracts made by Messrs. Otway Bros., in 1895, has resulted in the disappearance of foreign steamers from the returns.

In sailing vessels, also, foreign vessels show a marked decline, as shown by the following figures :—

	1894.	1895.	1896.
Foreign vessels entered (tons)	2,565	3,730	768
Foreign vessels cleared (tons)	2,565	3,431	730

A notable point, especially in the case of steam vessels, is the very great increase in shipping with cargoes and a like diminution in shipping in ballast. Thus the shipping (steam) both cleared and with cargoes was greater in 1896 than in either 1894 or 1895 :—

		1894.	1895.	1896.
Steam vessels—	With cargoes entered (tons)	151,286	123,821	167,821
,,	With cargoes cleared (tons)	116,263	106,346	154,195
,,	In ballast entered (tons)	78,003	116,267	43,611
,,	In ballast cleared (tons)	110,056	133,947	59,452

In the case of sailing vessels cleared the same tendency is shown as is also the case with sailing vessels entered in 1896 and 1895. Fewer of such vessels, however, were entered in ballast in 1894 than in 1896.

AGRICULTURE.

The non-existence of an Agricultural Society and the fact that the Land Tax returns do not contain information as to

the area of cultivated lands make it impossible to ascertain the increase or decrease in the various cultivations.

According to the export returns the cocoa crop was the largest on record, 57,691 bags (equal 90,193 cwt.) having been exported, being an increase of 2,026 bags over the quantity exported in 1894, hitherto regarded as the record year.

Comment has already been made in connection with the imports and exports upon the progress in coffee cultivation. Although accurate figures are not obtainable there is no doubt that there has been a considerable quantity of coffee planted, and that the Liberian thrives better than the Arabian plant.

Considerable efforts have been made, notably upon the Annandale Estate, to plant rubber, but sufficient time has not elapsed to enable any opinion to be formed as to whether the undertaking will be successful.

Botanical Gardens.—During the year tobacco (grown from Havana seed obtained from Jamaica) was cut, cured, and sold locally at 10*d.* per pound. There is of course no doubt that tobacco can be readily grown in the Colony, but no opinion can be formed upon the quality until the art of curing is better understood.

Two agricultural apprentices have been enrolled at the gardens and are reported to be making good progress.

SAVINGS BANK.

The Government Savings Bank returns are not altogether unsatisfactory when compared with those of 1895, as the number of depositors increased and the withdrawals diminished. The amount of deposits, however, shows a continued decrease.

Year.	Number of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits.	Amount of Withdrawals.	Balance at credit of Depositors at 31st December.
		£	£	£
1891	637	6,112	5,356	7,610
1892	904	5,994	6,672	6,886
1893	716	7,305	6,394	7,994
1894	959	7,307	7,893	7,602
1895	885	5,563	6,666	6,408
1896	895	4,854	5,035	6,391

In consequence of the remuneration of all Savings Bank Officials being included in their pay as public officers there was a gain of £42 on the year's transactions, which, however, is apparent only, as the value of the work done by the officers would exceed that sum.

Of the balance to credit of depositors, £4,000 is invested in 4 per cent. South Australia Stock and £2,000 is on deposit with the Colonial Bank at 3 per cent.

POST OFFICE.

The returns show an increase of 7,008 in the number of letters, parcels, &c., despatched and received, and an increase is also shown in the volume of business transacted by the Money Order Department.

ROADS AND PUBLIC WORKS.

During the year £16,091 was spent upon Public Works, of which £7,014 was spent upon Loan Works, £7,502 upon works annually recurrent, and the balance £1,575 upon Public Works exceptional (other than Loan Works).

Of the £7,502 spent upon works annually recurrent, £6,795 was spent on the maintenance of roads, being nearly one-eighth of the revenue of the Colony. This large outlay is largely the result of heavy rains, and is exclusive of the cost of maintaining and repairing bridges.

Excluding Carriacou, there are in the Colony 101 miles of main roads, 70 miles of first class byeways, and 179 miles of second class byeways, the cost of maintenance of which (excluding overseers) is respectively £25, £20, and £8 per mile.

During the year the Birch Grove Bridge, the Gouyave River Works, and the Florida embankment (all Loan Works) and the House Surgeon's Quarters were completed ; £3,285 was spent upon the reconstruction of the Colony Hospital (Loan Work). The reconstruction was not, however, completed during the year. A survey was made of the Crown Lands surrounding the Grand Etang. The Telephone system has been worked without any loss.

HOSPITALS AND ASYLUMS.

Hospitals.—Throughout the year both the Colony Hospital and the Yaws Hospital continued in the temporary quarters provided in 1895. There were 731 inmates as against 649 in 1895, the death rate being 7·85 as compared with 6·70 in 1895 and the percentage of cases cured 60 per cent. as against 69 per cent. in 1895.

The increase in the death rate is partly due, as the House Surgeon points out, to deaths from Tuberculosis, and would have been 7·1 only, had the deaths from that disease been the same in number as in 1895. Of malarial fever 109 cases occurred in the Colony Hospital amongst the patients and officers as against 84 in 1895, while in Carriacou Hospital no less than 75 per cent. of the patients became thus affected. The Colonial Surgeon states that the prevalence of this fever is, in the case of Carriacou, caused by the vicinity of undrained swamps. It will be of interest to note whether the number of such cases in the Colony Hospital will be reduced when the temporary quarters are abandoned.

The observations of the Colonial Surgeon and the House Surgeon with reference to the Yaws Hospital are of importance as indicating that compulsory treatment is not necessary to prevent an increase in the disease.

The return of the St. Andrew's Hospital is very significant as showing both a remarkable extension in the out-patient department and also that a profit has been made in the dispensary.

Of free prescriptions 8,060 were issued during the year.

Lunatic and Poor Asylums.—The admissions into the Lunatic Asylum again show an increase, there having been 5 more admitted than in 1895, in spite of the fact that during the latter year 8 more were admitted than in 1894. The Colonial Surgeon in his report expresses the opinion that insanity is slowly but steadily increasing in the Windward Group, and this opinion is apparently shared by the Acting Medical Superintendent, as he states that the accommodation for lunatics will probably soon have to be increased.

Primâ facie the increase in admissions is disproportionately large as compared with the natural increase in population. Having regard, however, to the re-admissions and to the smallness of the numbers upon which the proportions are based, and lastly to the fact that until two years ago the other colonies did not send all cases to Grenada, it is open to doubt whether the figures above referred to can be regarded as reliable evidence of an increase in insanity.

The death rate amongst the inmates of the Lunatic Asylum was 6·8 per cent. as compared with 10·92 per cent. in 1895 and the percentage of cases cured 11·2 as against 7·6 in 1895. By law a coroner's inquest has to be held respecting every death in the Asylum. In one case the verdict was that death arose from "starvation." Enquiry has shown that the deceased had been for some days in the infirmary and had been ordered special diet and stimulants, but that for three days before his death he refused his diet and would not even drink water.

The Poor Asylum (which would be more aptly called a Hospital for Incurables) shows a very marked increase in the death rate, the percentage being 41·1 in 1896 as against 29·6 in 1895.

GRENADA. 1896.

EDUCATION.

Primary Education.—The number of schools open during the year was 37, composed of 10 Government Schools and 27 denominational schools of which there were 14 Roman Catholic, 7 Anglican, 4 Wesleyan, and 2 Presbyterian.

The Happy Hill (Government) School was closed at the end of October, it having been decided that the Roman Catholic School there sufficiently met the requirements of the district.

The Government "Contributions" show an increase of £438, of which about £350 is due to the fact that the result grants for both 1895 and 1896 were paid to the Schools in the parish of St. George during the year.

There was an increase of 103 scholars on the roll, the total being 7,128. There was a slight decrease in the attendance, due to an epidemic of measles and mumps.

The following table shows that there has been a steady decline in the amount of fees collected and an equally steady increase in the expenditure by the Government upon Education.

Year.	On Roll.			Average attendance.	Attendance on examination day.	Scheduled for examination.	School fees paid.			Cost to taxpayers from Treasury Chest.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1890	3,227	2,582	5,809	3,056	4,728	2,595	690	17	5	3,545	6	8
1891	3,368	2,787	6,155	3,246	4,504	2,565	568	18	6	4,132	10	8
1892	3,422	2,825	6,247	3,248	4,715	2,952	471	17	4	4,202	1	4
1893	3,394	2,858	6,252	3,300	4,721	2,957	478	7	7	4,599	2	11
1894	3,612	3,111	6,723	3,608	4,843	3,366	481	17	4½	4,808	15	2
1895	3,825	3,200	7,025	3,569	5,229	3,532	390	10	8	5,354	6	4
1896	3,817	3,311	7,128	3,527	5,060	3,359	341	8	4½	5,792	15	6

The salary and allowances of the Inspector of Schools are not included in the returns.

The decrease in fees does not directly affect the Government, as the amount when collected is distributed amongst the teachers.

In the denominational schools the books, school furniture, &c., are supplied by the management and the latter make no charge for the rental of the buildings. With these exceptions the whole cost of a school when once established is borne by the Government, as no part of the education revenue is derived from voluntary contributions.

A great difference exists between the cost of education in the various schools calculated per scholar on the roll, and

is shown in the following table which is based upon the figures for 1896.

	No. of scholars on the roll.	Cost per annum for each scholar on the roll.	Expenditure on first class teachers.	Expenditure on assistant teachers.	Capitation Grant.	Result Grant.
		s. d.	£	£	£	£
Government Schools	1,721	18 1	550	40	88	282
Roman Catholic ...	3,274	13 4	670	274	141	421
Anglican	1,161	20 10	390	185	66	215
Wesleyan	756	22 2	220	116	44	171
Presbyterian ...	216	23 5	100	Nil.	12	52
	7,128		£1,930	£615	£351	£1,141

The expenditure shown in the above table amounts to £4,037 out of the £5,792 total amount of the Government expenditure, the balance £1,755 being spent on pupil teachers, sewing mistresses, sewing result grants, miscellaneous expenditure, and in caretakers, rentals, and books in Government schools.

The figures above given show, it will be noticed, that money spent on high class teachers usually brings about an increase in the result grant.

A new Education Code was brought into operation in November, too late therefore to affect the returns for the year.

Under the new Code the amount spent upon the staff in salaries will be less, and the capitation grant lessened by half, but the result grants will be considerably increased. It is estimated that the net result will be a saving of about £800 per annum.

The Code provides a stricter system in calculating the attendance, an improved system for the examination of scholars, and lastly by it persons cannot become teachers until they obtain certificates from the College of Preceptors.

PRISONS AND CRIME.

The number of persons sentenced to imprisonment was 260 as compared with 263 in 1895 and 245 in 1894.

Of the 260 persons sentenced 96 had already suffered previous conviction, the corresponding numbers for 1895 and 1894 being 107 and 94 respectively.

24 persons were sentenced to be flogged for larceny of cocoa, but 8 escaped that punishment in consequence of being certified as medically unfit. There was no case of flogging for breach of prison discipline.

The health of the Richmond Hill Prison was exceptionally good, there having been but two of those cases of diarrhœa,

GRENADA. 1896.

dysentery, and fever which were so numerous in 1894 and 1895. During the rainy season, however, malarial fever was prevalent in the Female Prison in St. George's.

The discipline was satisfactorily maintained, and the estimated value of the work done by the prisoners exceeded the cost of maintaining the prisons by £117 17*s.* 8*d.*

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

Four persons were found guilty of serious crimes and were sentenced to imprisonment for periods exceeding five years. Although no such sentences were necessary in 1895 there is no reason for thinking that there is in the Colony any increased tendency to commit such crimes.

POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated population at the end of the year was 60,367, being an increase of 7,158 over the population as recorded by the census of April 1891, and 1,266 over the estimated population at the end of 1895.

The rates per 1,000 mean estimated population were, for births 41·02, for marriages 5·87, and for deaths 19·82.

As compared with 1895 the birth rate diminished in every district in the Colony, the decrease being greatest in the island of Carriacou, in which latter place and also in the parish of St. George's the decline was accompanied by an increase in the death rate. The death rate for the whole Colony, however, shows a slight decrease and the marriage rate an increase from 314 marriages in 1895 to 351 in 1896.

During the year the Infirm Paupers and Immigrants Ordinance came into operation, a fact which should be noted in connection with the census of 1901.

LOCAL REVENUES.

The financial position of the St. George's Town Board constituted by Ordinance 5 of 1895 is very satisfactory. There is no reason to conclude that the Hillsborough, Sauteurs, and Victoria Parochial Boards are not perfectly solvent, as a very slight increase in revenue will result in each having a surplus instead of the slight deficit which occurred last year. The Gouyave Parochial Board, although heavily burdened by its loans, cannot be by any means regarded as foredoomed to the condition of hopeless insolvency which characterizes the account of the Grenville Parochial Board.

LEGISLATION.

Considerable progress has been made in the work of consolidating and revising the law; 37 Ordinances were passed during the year and a special committee of the Legislative Council considered and reported upon Bills introducing a Criminal Code, a Criminal Procedure Code, and an Evidence Code.

The chief changes in the law were effected by the Jury Ordinance (No. 16 of 1896) which enables majority verdicts to be given in all cases except murder, by the Cocoa and Nutmegs Ordinance (No. 21 of 1896), which repeals the former law in so far as the latter made flogging an unavoidable consequence of conviction for theft of cocoa, &c., and thirdly by the Excise Ordinance (No. 36 of 1896), which transfers excise work from the Treasury to the Police.

The Export Duties Ordinance (Ordinance 22 of 1896) is probably the most important Ordinance which was passed during the year. It imposes export duties upon certain produce, *inter alia* 5*d.* per cwt. on cocoa and 1*s.* per cwt. on spices. The Ordinance came into force at the end of October, since which date the price of cocoa has advanced in London several shillings per cwt. The facility with which the tax is collected is very notable when compared with the Land and House tax, for the enforcement of which four Orders in Council were found to be necessary during the year.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

The average mean temperature throughout the year was 79.0.

The coolest months were, as usual, January, February, March, and the hottest, also as usual, August, September, and October.

The rainfall was exceptionally heavy in Grenada, but not in Carriacou.

During the last three years the early months have been dry, the rain beginning in May and lasting till the end of the year, the greatest fall taking place in September and November, the intervening October being comparatively dry.

At the Grand Etang the rainfall during the year was no less than 200·69 inches, of which 38·72 inches fell in November. The accuracy of these figures is borne out by the observations made at Annandale and Belvidere, at both of which places the rainfall was very heavy, being especially so in November.

ESTABLISHMENT.

Several important changes took place under this head. Mr. H. R. Pipon Schooles was promoted to be Attorney-General of

GRENADA. 1896.

Jamaica, and Mr. Leslie Probyn was appointed to the Attorney Generalship of Grenada from British Honduras.

Mr. E. Pakenham Brooks, Treasurer, died in the month of August. The opportunity was taken to effect a reduction in the cost of the Treasury and Post Office departments. Mr. C. Falconer Anton, Registrar of the Supreme Court, was placed at the head of both Treasury and Post Office departments as Postmaster as well as Treasurer, Comptroller of Customs, &c., and Mr. C. H. Collymore, the Postmaster, was made Registrar of the Supreme Court. As noticed under Legislation the excise division of the Treasury was transferred to the Police Department at the close of the year.

Mr. L. B. Otway, Magistrate of the Western District and District Registrar of Births and Deaths for the parishes of St. John's and St. Mark's, retired on pension on the 31st December 1895. To the offices vacated by Mr. Otway, Mr. W. E. Haynes, Revenue Officer at Grenville, &c., was appointed, and to Mr. Haynes's combined offices Mr. H. W. Sharpe (Chief Revenue Officer) as Assistant Treasurer of Grenville, Mr. Sharpe's place as Chief Revenue Officer being filled by Mr. G. E. Gumbs, from the Revenue Staff.

The Auditor of the Windward Islands, Mr. L. J. Bertram, was transferred to the Leeward Islands, and the vacant auditorship was conferred upon Mr. W. Cuddeford, Auditor of the Sierra Leone Government.

GENERAL.

During the year there were five bankruptcies (as against *nil* in 1895) and a large increase in foreclosure suits and actions for debt; there being no important manufactures in the Colony, it seems probable that the decrease in the imports is due to efforts at retrenchment made by those anxious or compelled to repay loans, it being obvious that with a substantial increase in the exports the purchasing power of the Colony cannot have been lessened.

If, therefore, the increasing expenditure upon upkeep of roads and bridges can be checked, there is good reason to conclude that the Colony will pass successfully out of the period of strain which began in 1895.

LESLIE PROBYN,
Attorney General and Actg. Col. Secretary.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
12th August, 1897.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 222.

BRITISH GUIANA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1896–7.

(For Report for 1895–6, *see* No. 188.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
December 1897.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 1-3, Great St. Thomas Apostle, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, Hanover Street, Edinburgh, and
90, West Nile Street, Glasgow; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., Limited, 104, Grafton Street, Dublin

1897.

[C.—8650-20.] *Price* 1½*d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
189	Gold Coast	1895
190	Jamaica	1895–96
191	Canada	1895
192	Bermuda	1896
193	Bahamas...	,,
194	Zululand	,,
195	Gambia	,,
196	Malta	,,
197	British New Guinea	1895–96
198	Turks and Caicos Islands	1896
199	Barbados	,,
200	Leeward Islands	1895
201	Trinidad and Tobago	1896
202	Gibraltar	,,
203	Fiji (Trade)	,,
204	Straits Settlements	1895
205	Do. do.	1896
206	Falkland Islands	,,
207	British Honduras	,,
208	Sierra Leone	,,
209	Grenada	,,
210	Hong Kong	,,
211	St. Lucia	,,
212	St. Vincent	,,
213	St. Helena	,,
214	Seychelles	,,
215	Mauritius	,,
216	Cocos Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	,,
217	Fiji	,,
218	Ceylon	,,
219	Lagos	,,
220	Gold Coast	,,
221	Labuan	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.

No. 222.

BRITISH GUIANA.

(For Report for 1895–6, *see* No. 188 of this Series.)

GOVERNOR SIR A. W. L. HEMMING to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Georgetown, Demerara,
11th November, 1897.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1896-7, with the usual report thereon by the Assistant Government Secretary.

I have, &c.,
AUGUSTUS W. L. HEMMING,
Governor.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1896–7.

TAXATION.

The principal alterations in the Taxes levied for revenue purposes during the year were the re-imposition of a duty of 4*s.* 2*d.* per barrel of 100 lbs. of pickled Beef and Pork, the increase of the duty on Rice from 1*s.* 0½d. to 1*s.* 5½*d.* per 100 lbs., and to 40 cts. per lb. on Leaf Tobacco, a duty of $2 a head on Hogs and Pigs, and $1 a head on Sheep.

15200*—75—12/97 Wt 20613 D & S—5 (B)

BRITISH GUIANA. 1896-7.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The total Revenue for the year 1896-7 was £555,774, as compared with £567,749 during the preceding year.

Increases took place under the following heads :—

———	1895–6.	1896–7.	Cause.
	£	£	
Wines and Spirits	27,359	31,120	Unbonding in anticipation of increased duty.
Royalty on Timber, Shingles, &c.	1,163	1,888	Ordinary fluctuation.
Royalty on Gold	22,740	23,902	Slightly increased production.

And the principal reductions were as follows :—

———	1895–6.	1896–7.	Cause.
	£	£	
Rum Duty	54,266	49,779	Less consumption.
Retail Spirit Licences ...	84,515	80,231	Reduction of number of Shops.
Postal and Revenue Stamps.	16,149	14,960	Falling off in business.
Gold Industry, Fees, Licences, &c.	2,842	1,766	Reduction of charges.

The total expenditure was £590,616, less by £5,877 than in the previous year, but in excess of the revenue for 1896-7 by £34,842.

The following items show the chief reductions :—

———	1895–6.	1896–7.	Cause.
	£	£	
Public Works	28,382	23,800	Expenditure limited to bare necessaries.
Central Board of Health ...	3,977	2,577	Reduced Expenditure in Country Districts.
Roads	28,479	24,453	Economy in expenditure.

And the principal increases are as follows :—

———	1895–6.	1896–7.	Cause.
Colonial Receiver General	6,072	7,727	Apparent only. Withdrawal Savings Bank Contributions.
Poor, including Alms Houses.	19,780	20,849	Greater calls on the Institutions.
Hospitals and Asylums ...	33,719	34,903	
Public Debt	47,792	51,351	Interest on Bonds issued during previous year.

THE PUBLIC DEBT.

The Public Debt of the Colony on 31st March, 1897, was—

	£
For sums borrowed for Public Purposes for which the revenue of the Colony is directly pledged ...	742,700
For sums borrowed by Corporations or Public Bodies under the authority of Special Laws, and on the Security of the revenue of the Colony	159,887

the total amount for which the revenue of the Colony is pledged being therefore £902,587, less by £30,117 than on the corresponding date in 1896.

But from out of the first mentioned sum there has been lent to Corporations and Public bodies on security of their revenues a sum of £347,218, and therefore the amount by which the total Public Debt is reduced by loans repayable is really £507,105, leaving a Public Debt, for money borrowed and spent on Public Works, of £395,482.

The following is a statement of loans and advances referred to in the last paragraph—

	£
To the Mayor and Town Council of Georgetown.	105,416
To the Mayor and Town Council of New Amsterdam	18,645
To Commissioners in aid of Water Supply Works.	143,656
Miscellaneous Loans recoverable	79,501

Full provision for sinking funds and interest in respect of all loans raised by the Government is made annually.

IMPORTS.

The Imports amounted to £1,341,709 as compared with £1,443,553 in the previous year.

The following table shows the principal articles of Food imported and the source from which they were obtained :—

Articles imported.	1895-6.		1896-7.		1896-7.	1896-7.	Principal Countries whence Imported.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Increase in Value.	Decrease in Value.	
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Beef, Pickled ... brls.	11,321	26,341 8 11½	10,820	20,559 1 7½	...	5,782 7 4	United States, B. N. America.
Bread and Biscuits lbs.	450,384	3,483 3 4½	539,570	4,128 10 3½	645 6 11	...	United Kingdom, United States.
Butter ... ... „	566,381	21,475 4 6	528,692	19,908 5 8½	...	1,566 18 9½	United Kingdom, France, United States, Holland.
Corn and Pulse bushls.	148,513	29,009 5 10½	163,647	38,079 7 10½	9,070 2 0	...	United Kingdom, East Indies, United States.
Cornmeal & Oatmeal lbs.	1,071,480	3,409 10 7	924,000	2,603 17 9½	...	805 12 9½	United Kingdom, United States.
Fish, Dried ... cwt.	67,692	52,121 17 10	68,800	53,651 16 1½	1,529 18 3½	...	Br. N. America, United States.
Flour ... ... brls.	174.803	129,091 7 9½	145,742	103,955 18 2½	...	25,135 9 7	Br. N. America, United States.
Lard ... ... lbs.	370,804	5,088 1 3½	289,970	4,316 16 6	...	771 4 9½	United States.
Onions ... ... „	2,545,590	6,268 0 9½	2,163,848	5,872 3 1	...	395 17 8½	Madeira, Tenerife.
Pork ... ... brls.	28,680	69,174 4 9½	15,196½	26,738 19 3	...	42,435 5 6½	United States, B. N. America.
Rice ... ... lbs.	49,262,831	183,393 18 8½	32,508,921	131,458 1 3	...	51,935 17 5½	United Kingdom, East Indies.

The local cultivation of ground provisions, especially plantains, restored to the labouring population their favourite vegetable, and accounts in some measure for the large reduction in the imports of flour and rice. The reduction in rice was even greater than appears, for there were large imports in March last in anticipation of increased duty ; it is not so easy to account for the reduced importation of pickled beef and pork, or to see what took their place.

EXPORTS.

The following is a comparative statement of the Exports of the Colony in the year 1895-6, and 1896-7, showing the principal Countries to which they were sent :—

Articles.	Value.		Increase.	Decrease.	Principal Countries exported to.
	1895–6.	1896–7.	1896–7.	1896–7.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Sugar	1,046,160 8 3½	1,098,398 4 4½	52,237 16 1	...	United Kingdom, United States, British North America.
Rum	121,144 19 8	136,927 4 4	15,782 4 8	...	United Kingdom, British N. America, Dutch W. Indies.
Molasses	15,986 15 0	20,926 7 1	4,939 12 1	...	B. N. America, French W. Indies, Holland, Madeira.
Gold	444,990 11 10	466,143 1 5½	21,152 9 7½	...	United Kingdom.
Timber	13,310 10 3	30,960 4 1½	17,649 13 10½	...	United Kingdom, Holland.
Charcoal	7,213 11 4½	7,805 7 10½	591 16 6	...	British W. Indies, Bermuda.
Gum, Balata	8,922 17 9	20,544 10 2	11,621 12 5	...	United Kingdom.
Do., Other	122 18 4½	116 2 1	...	6 16 3½	United Kingdom.
Shingles	1,253 18 9	1,014 12 8½	...	239 6 0½	B. W. Indies, French W. Indies, Dutch W. Indies, Dutch Guiana.
Hides	895 15 6½	830 15 6	...	65 0 0½	United Kingdom, French W. Indies.
Cocoanuts	...	1 5 0	1 5 0	...	Bermuda.
Chocolate	313 4 4½	249 13 7½	...	63 10 9	United Kingdom, British W. Indies.
Cocoa	2,374 5 1	1,241 3 2½	...	1,133 1 10½	United Kingdom, British N. America.

Isinglass	445	1	5	756	4	2	311	2	9	...		United Kingdom.
Cattle and live stock ...	2,196	17	6	190	0	0	...			2,C06	17	6	Dutch Guiana, French Guiana.
Bread and Biscuits ...	145	6	8	134	1	5½	...			11	5	2½	Dutch Guiana, French Guiana.
Firewood	9	10	0	4	0	0	...			5	10	0	British W. Indies.
Fibre	13	8	7½	28	10	5	15	1	9½	...			British W. Indies.
Lumber	740	17	8	3,358	4	2½	2,617	6	6½	...			United Kingdom, British W. Indies, B. N. America, Dutch Guiana.
Plantains	351	1	5½	265	12	3	...			85	9	2½	British W. Indies.
Coffee	444	7	6	292	15	2	...			151	12	4	United Kingdom.
Corn or Maize	22	7	6	43	4	5	20	16	11	...			British W. Indies.
Miscellaneous	876	14	4	2,417	3	4½	1,540	9	0½				
Total, Colonial Produce	£1,667,935	8	11½	£1,792,648	7	0	£128,481	7	3½	£3,768	9	3	
„ Foreign do. ...	101,564	19	6	106,808	17	4							
„ Exports	£1,769,500	8	5½	£1,899,457	4	4							
Net increase, Colonial Produce, 1896–7.	...			...			124,712	18	0½				
Net increase, Foreign Produce, 1896–7.	...			...			5,243	17	10				
	£1,769,500	8	5½	£1,899,457	4	4	£129,956	15	10½				

The following statement shows the direction and value of the Trade of the Colony in 1895-6 and 1896-7.

COUNTRIES.	IMPORTS.		EXPORTS.	
	1895–6.	1896–7.	1895–6.	1896–7.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom	789,817 6 9	783,697 3 7½	968,252 1 4	964,248 1 4
United States	381,646 17 1½	299,751 1 7½	657,693 4 10	778,952 12 1
British N. America	69,345 16 0	86,616 4 2	42,354 8 7	19,927 11 0
British W. Indies	50,598 16 11½	30,420 17 3½	15,841 19 11½	33,033 1 3
East Indies...	84,329 14 7½	79,252 1 1½	109 16 8	223 19 9
Bermuda	241 9 1½	312 0 5	2,810 16 1	1,789 17 0
Newfoundland	—	—	738 2 9	—
Foreign Countries other than United States ...	67,573 4 7½	61,660 10 6	81,699 18 3	101,282 1 11
	1,443,553 5 2½	1,341,709 18 9	1,769,500 8 5½	1,899,457 4 4

The following Statement shows the number of Vessels Entered and Cleared at the Ports of the Colony during the Year 1896-7 :—

	PORTS.	Entered.			Cleared.		
		No.	Tons.	Men.	No.	Tons.	Men.
Steam Vessels.	Georgetown, Demerara	229	211,407	8,499	237	219,573	8,452
	New Amsterdam, Berbice	7	4,980	158	14	13,418	361
	North Western District	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Totals	236	216,387	8,657	251	232,991	8,813
Sailing Vessels.	Georgetown, Demerara	345	75,228	2,860	368	163,890	2,937
	New Amsterdam, Berbice	16	3,606	111	11	3,059	73
	North Western District	*29	34	58	29	34	58
	Totals	390	78,868	3,029	408	166,983	3,068
	Totals Steam and Sails ...	626	295,255	11,686	659	399,974	11,881

* These are small boats entering the port of Barima.

15200*—5

The following comparative Table for the years 1895-6 and 1896-7, distinguishes Steam from Sailing Vessels :—

	VESSELS.	1895–6.		1896–7.		Increase, 1896–7.		Decrease, 1896–7.	
		No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
ENTERED.	Steam Vessels	233	197,460	236	216,387	3	18,927	—	—
	Sailing Vessels	423	87,485	390	78,868	—	—	33	6,617
	Totals ...	656	285,305	626	295,255	—	9,950	30	—
CLEARED.	Steam Vessels	213	170,759	251	232,991	—	—	38	62,232
	Sailing Vessels	346	82,191	408	166,983	—	—	62	84,792
	Totals ...	559	252,950	659	399,974	—	—	100	147,024

LOCAL REVENUES.

Georgetown on the Demerara River (population 53,000) and New Amsterdam on the Berbice River (population 8,900) are the two principal Towns of the Colony. Each possesses a Mayor and Town Council who have power to raise local revenues. These revenues have hitherto been supplemented by grants from the general revenue of the Colony, but these were withdrawn during the year and in lieu the Government now pay the ordinary town tax on public buildings and contribute towards the upkeep of the roads. The re-adjustment is very favourable to the Municipalities.

The total revenue of Georgetown amounted to £51,411, of which a tax of 2 per cent. on houses and land yielded £28,399, the public market, £5,222, and the water works, £2,979. The expenditure was £51,057, the principal items being Bonds redeemable and interest account, £10,842, Fire Brigade (one moiety, the Government paying the other) £5,238, Labour and Sanitary Superintendence, £5,760, Street Lighting, £3,215, Salaries, £2,720.

Ordinance No. 1 of 1896 gave the Mayor and Town Council borrowing power, to the extent of £104,000, but not more than £10,200 can be raised in any one year. These powers have been exercised to the extent of £20,400, and many important sanitary works have been completed or are in progress. Special attention has been paid to drainage during recent years, and the health of the City has greatly improved.

In New Amsterdam the total revenue was £10,270 (including a balance of £2,516 from the previous year) and the total expenditure £9,212.

The affairs of Bartica, a little town at the junction of the Essequebo and Massaruni Rivers, are administered by a Board of Commissioners who have power to levy rates for municipal purposes.

There were twenty-three villages, with a population of 32,576. In some cases two villages are worked as one under the system of village councils which was established some years ago and which has proved beneficial in many cases. Councillors are elected by the village proprietors and the affairs of the village are entrusted to them. They have power to levy rates and execute the necessary works of maintenance. The total village revenue for 1896-7 amounted to £6,560, and expenditure £6,304.

IMMIGRATION.

India continues to be the only reliable recruiting ground for agricultural labour, and 2,380 men, women, and children were

brought over during the year. Strange may appear the necessity for bringing these labourers from the other side of the world, while only 400 miles from us the Island of Barbados is facing the problem of over-population, but despite all efforts in past years by individual importers of labour and by the Governments of the two Colonies, it has been found impracticable to establish anything but the most desultory and fitful immigration from that Island. The difficulty appears to lie in certain deeply rooted characteristics of the Barbadian labourer. He is strongly averse to entering into an engagement of service for any lengthened period ; he cherishes the hope and the right of returning to his Island whenever he pleases ; he is peculiarly susceptible to malarial disorders, perhaps more so than the East Indian ; he will not live in "ranges," however comfortable, but insists on having a cottage, if it be only a mud hut. These and other similar causes have, up to now, prevented the Colonies of British Guiana and Barbados from being of immense benefit to each other in the matter of labour.

2,059 East Indian labourers, including children, returned to Calcutta during the year. They carried back with them jewellery to the value of £1,458, and deposited £14,473 for remittance.

The total East Indian population of the Colony on the 31st March, 1897, was estimated at 116,700. Of these, 69,474 were resident on estates—17,847 being indentured, 35,935 unindentured, and the rest children. The approximate number not residing on estates was therefore 47,296. The immigrant population had at their credit in the Savings Bank £91,422, and those resident on estates owned 15,779 head of cattle and 5,322 sheep.

A systematic effort was made during the year to meet the desire of immigrants for allotments of land in lieu of back passages, and the indications of success are most favourable. Plantation Helena on the East Coast, long a favourite spot with those who had elected to make British Guiana their home, was purchased by the Government with the intention of forming a large East Indian Settlement, and the necessary works were put in hand without delay. The Acting Immigration Agent General writes in his annual report :—"Judging from the large number "of immigrants who sent in applications for land at Helena "and the impatience displayed by them while the necessary "preparatory work of cleaning the trenches, repairing kokers, "and improving the drainage was being carried out, there is, I "think, every reason to believe that no difficulty will be "experienced in forming settlements in other parts of the Colony "as soon as arrangements can be made for that purpose."

Public Works.

The expenditure on Public Works was kept as low as possible, being restricted to works of maintenance, repairs and additions

which were absolutely necessary. The total expenditure amounted to £30,124, of which £23,898 was charged to current revenue; the principal items being Hospitals, £1,639; Lunatic Asylum, £1,458; Government Houses and other Buildings, £3,779; Prisons, £2,433; Police Stations, £2,603; and Sea Defences, £1,307.

Of the sum of £3,272 chargeable to Loan Account, £2,207 was spent on Sea Defence. The total estimated cost of works undertaken or in progress during the year was £55,063, the principal item being additional accommodation at the Leper Asylums, estimated to cost £18,750.

AGRICULTURE.

The following is a comparative statement of the quantities and gross value of sugar, rum, and molasses exported in 1895-6 and 1896-7:—

	1895-6.		1896-7.	
	Quantities.	Value.	Quantities.	Value.
Sugar ...	101,160 Tons.	£1,046,160	107,073 Tons.	£1,098.398
Rum ...	2,261,750 Galls.	121,144	3,291,190 Galls.	136,927
Molasses ...	737,850 „	15,986	913,150 „	20,926

The average prices prevailing during the last three years are also shown below:—

	1894-5.	1895-6.	1896-7.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Sugar, vacuum pan, sold in United Kingdom, per ton.	13 7 0½	10 9 7½	10 14 10
„ refined, sold in United States, per ton.	11 5 4½	10 9 8	10 6 2½
„ molasses	10 7 11	7 15 11	8 2 8
Rum, per puncheon	5 3 4	5 7 1½	4 3 2½

BRITISH GUIANA. 1896–7.

A favourable season increased the yield of the staple product of the Colony and lent some slight, but very slight, aid to the planter in his struggle against Continental bounties; but the sugar market showed no signs of revival, and again only those estates conducted under most favourable conditions were able to secure a profit on the year's working. Two large estates went entirely out of cultivation, many changed hands at almost nominal prices, and several are in process of gradual abandonment. The Royal Commission appointed to enquire into the condition of the British West Indian Colonies commenced their labours in the early part of the present year, and British Guiana was the first Colony visited. The conclusions at which they have arrived are most anxiously awaited.

The cultivation of coffee and cocoa continues, but in quantities not much more than sufficient to supply the local demand. Kola is being grown up the Demerara River, and some shipments have been made.

Rice promises to be grown to a large extent, as the country behind the coast lands is very suitable in many places, and a mill has been erected in Georgetown by a Company who will purchase the "paddy" from the growers and prepare it for the market. It is hardly to be expected that, with the cost of labour here, rice will ever be exported in competition with Indian rice, but the local demand alone supplies an ample field for enterprise in this direction.

Ground provisions, especially plantains, were largely cultivated by small farmers during the year, and a bunch of the latter which three years ago would have sold for 2*s.* 6*d.* can now be purchased for 8*d.* There are no statistics available as to the growth of this industry, but the strides it has taken may be seen by a walk on the outskirts of Georgetown, and there can be no doubt that the consequent cheapening of vegetables has been some compensation to the labouring classes for a reduced wage.

MINES.

The gold production of the Colony for the year 1896-7 amounted to 127,454 oz., being an increase of 6,169 oz. over the yield of the previous year. The bulk of this still comes from placers, but three Companies have erected machinery and worked quartz which produced 6,458 oz. The Mining Regulations underwent thorough revision during the year, and a new code was passed on the 1st November, 1896, some further amendments being made in April last. The fees have been considerably reduced, and a more equitable adjustment of them secured. A simple verification of claims has taken the place of the costly and cumbrous survey, and gold is not now detained for labourers' wages, but any employer against whom there may

be an unsatisfied judgment for wages may be refused any further registration of labourers.

The road from the Potaro to the placers on the Conawarook, and the road connecting the Barima and the Barama Rivers, have been completed, and over the former, mules and carts are being used. The road from Cartabo point has been completed for a distance of some 30 miles, and the survey has extended much further. The road from Bartica to the Caburi has been commenced. The general health at the diggings has been better, owing to improved sanitation.

GRANTS OF LAND.

The grants of land issued for purposes of wood cutting and cultivation were again fewer in number than the average, and embraced respectively 4,471 acres and 1,317, but the popular desire appears to be tending towards small homesteads, for 44 grants, with a total of 4,352 acres, were acquired outright by purchase, nearly double the extent of land so acquired in the previous year.

74 new grants were taken out for the collection of the rubber gum known as ballata.

LEGISLATION.

Twenty-two Ordinances were passed during the year, only a few of which need special reference. The introduction of the Ballot in political Elections will be referred to elsewhere. The old Quarantine Board was abolished and its functions transferred to a Committee of the Central Board of Health. The appointments of Captains and Constables amongst the Indians, which were very numerous in former years, have been revised under legislative authority and several appointments have been made. Important legislation took place in the interest of Gold Miners on such subjects as mining partnerships, offences, courts and procedure. The Clergy List was renewed for fifteen months from the 1st January, 1897. Authority was given to raise on public loan a further sum of $2,500,000. Facilities were created for raising money on loan by those carrying on Sugar Estates for cultivation purposes. The Saffon Trust, an endowed institution for the education of 10 orphan children, was remodelled. The affairs of the Vlissengen Commission which had long remained open owing to intricate complications and conflicting interests were wound up, and many other matters of lesser moment received attention either by Ordinance or by Regulation.

POLITICAL FRANCHISE.

An important change took place during the year by the introduction of the ballot in political elections, and the general

BRITISH GUIANA. 1896–7.

elections of members of the Court of Policy and the Combined Court in January 1897 were marked by an exhibition of political interest hitherto unknown in the Colony. All the seats save those of one member of the Court of Policy and one Financial Representative were hotly contested. Five members of the old Court of Policy were returned again. One who had previously sat as a Financial Representative was elected unopposed to the Court of Policy, and the remaining two seats were filled by new members who defeated the previous holders.

Of the six Financial Representatives only two were returned again, but in the several contests only one who had occupied a seat at the dissolution was defeated.

EDUCATION.

In the Queen's College of Georgetown ample provision is made by the Government for the education of boys after they have passed through a primary School. The course of instruction is the same as that of a public school or first grade grammar school in England, and candidates can be prepared for the Matriculation Examination of the University of London which is held in the Colony, on the usual notice being given. At the Cambridge Local Examination held in December, 1896, thirty-one students passed, ten of them with honours, and eight marks of special distinction were gained. A scholarship is awarded annually on the result of this examination. It is of the value of £200 per annum, tenable for three years, or, if the scholar select the medical profession, £150 per annum, tenable for five years.

There were 90 students at the close of the year.

The education of girls is provided for by private schools; prominent amongst which are the Ursuline Convent School and the Wesleyan High School.

Other educational endowments include the de Saffon Institution which provides support and education for ten orphans or half orphans, and the Mitchell Bequest which offers two scholarships tenable at certain approved schools for four years of the value of £15 a year.

Primary Education was carried on by grants-in-aid to denominational schools under the management in most cases of Ministers of Religion, the central authority being the Inspector of Schools. The number of State-aided Schools at the close of the year was 207, being an increase of 4 for the year. The grants earned amounted to £20,787. The number of children on the books was 28,452, and the cost to the Colony per child examined was £1 0*s*. 1½*d*.

There are five Scholarships tenable for four years awarded annually from public funds to primary schools.

At the request of the Legislature a Commission was appointed during the year to enquire into the question of the re-establishment of a Board of Education and the operation of the system of payment by results.

MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

The defensive forces of the Colony consisted of a semi-military armed force of Police numbering with officers and non-commissioned officers 757, and a Militia 336 strong, including all ranks and the band. In March last, however, the Combined Court refused to continue the provision for the Militia, and voted supplies only for the up-keep of the two quick firing guns at the Fort and the band. The total cost of the Militia for the past year had been £6,009.

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

There are not many changes in the Civil Establishment. His Excellency Sir Augustus Hemming, K.C.M.G., was absent on leave for seven weeks in the autumn, and the administration of the Government devolved upon the Hon. Cavendish Boyle, Government Secretary (now Sir Cavendish Boyle, K.C.M.G.).

Every opportunity was taken during the year to effect economy in the establishment, and several appointments which had fallen vacant were not filled. Amongst them may be mentioned three Government Medical Officers, eight Clerks in Public Offices, and two Stipendiary Magistrates. A scheme of reorganization of Magisterial Districts has also been settled, which will permit of further economies when suitable opportunities occur.

The cost of administration in British Guiana is often compared unfavourably with that of the neighbouring Colonies, and allowance is not made for the centralization possible in the Islands, and the consequent facilities for economical administration. Here the police, judicial, fiscal, and postal systems are spread over a sea-board of some 200 miles, they penetrate for over 100 miles up the rivers of the Colony, and occasionally the strong arm of the law is stretched through the jungle to the very limits of British territory. With so scattered a population the cost of administration is necessarily heavy, and must remain so as long as the people insist on retaining the advantages to which they have been accustomed. To take an illustration near at hand, it may be said that the residents of the islands of Leguan and Wakenaam might be absorbed into any industrial centre of population without requiring the employment of an additional policeman. But, situated as they are, they must be supplied with a magistrate, a doctor, a clergyman, police protection, and steamer communication with the mainland.

BRITISH GUIANA 1896-7.

The expenditure on charitable and educational institutions is also on the most liberal scale, and the annual expenditure on Hospitals, Asylums, Poor Relief, Primary Education, &c., amounts to about 7*s.* per head of the population.

POPULATION.

The population of the Colony on the 31st December, 1896, was estimated at 285,315. There had been an excess of births over deaths, the figures being respectively 9,276 and 7,513, while Immigration had exceeded Emigration by 274.

The Census of 1891 showed that the population was distributed as follows :—

City of Georgetown, and Town of New Amsterdam	62,079
On Sugar Estates	90,492
Village and Settlements	125,757

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

There has been a gratifying all round reduction in these figures, which speaks well for the Colony in view of present conditions.

The total number of offences reported to the Police was 10,360, and the apprehensions and summonses 23,433. Summary convictions fell to 11,686, while convictions in the Supreme Court numbered only 139, one third less than in the previous year.

Amongst the summary convictions, fines were paid in 5,816 cases. 3,264 chose the alternative of imprisonment, and peremptory imprisonment was imposed in 1,662 cases. There were 157 sentences of whipping, chiefly for assaults and other offences against the person, prædial larceny, and offences against property.

During the year a body of convicts from the Penal Settlement at Massaruni were employed under the personal superintendence of the Inspector of Prisons in the construction of the road from Cartabo point at the junction of the Massaruni and Essequebo Rivers. The result was most satisfactory and economical.

The gratifying reduction in the inmates of the Boys' Industrial School at Onderneeming, and the Girls' Reformatory noticed last year, was maintained during the period under review, and no juvenile offenders were committed to prison.

HOSPITALS.

There are five public hospitals in the Colony at which those who cannot pay are treated gratuitously, and arrangements are being made for providing hospital accommodation at the more populated centres of the gold diggings, but the cost of such establishments is necessarily very great, and much must be left to the larger employers of labour in this respect.

The following is a synopsis of the work of the present Hospitals :—

——	Remaining at beginning of 1896-7.	Admitted in 1896-7.	Discharged.			Died.	Daily Average in 1896–7.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not Improved.		
Georgetown ...	553	7,648	2,481	3,786	529	812	587
New Amsterdam	138	2,025	336	973	526	203	126
Suddie	46	1,100	75	756	139	117	55
Bartica	10	562	220	273	6	51	14
Morawhanna ...	16	795	552	188	9	38	21

In addition to the above, some 43,000 persons received treatment as Out-patients from the several hospitals.

LUNATIC ASYLUM.

There is a regrettable increase in the lunacy statistics, and the numbers creep up year by year. The daily average in the Asylum during the past year was 665 (422 males, and 243 females), as against 648 in the previous year. The admissions numbered 207. 111 patients were discharged, of whom 106 had recovered, and 5 were relieved. 73 died during the year. The Asylum stands in extensive grounds which permitted of 163 patients being employed in agricultural work. 126 worked at trades, and 110 in household or domestic work.

Manual restraint further than interference between patients quarrelling, or to prevent injury, has not been resorted to for many years. The inmates were classified as follows :—

Maniacal and dangerous	107
Quiet chronic	400
Melancholic and Suicidal	79
Idiotic, Paralytic, Epileptic	75
	661

LEPER ASYLUMS.

The male and female Asylums at Mahaica and Gorchum contained at the close of the year 363 inmates, of whom 76 had been admitted during the year, 44 had died, and 16 had absconded. The disease showed itself in the following forms :—

—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Anæsthetic	150	45	195
Tubercular	49	19	68
Mixed	73	15	85
			348

There were several non-leprous children, one case of yaws, and two doubtful cases.

There are other charitable Institutions in the Colony. The Alms Houses in Georgetown and New Amsterdam contain 853 inmates, the Orphan Asylum 83 children, and the Catholic Orphanage 46 girls, all except the last named supported from public funds.

In addition to the above, about £10,000 is spent yearly in out-door poor relief.

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH.

Postal business proper shows an all-round increase, and the total number of articles posted rose to 1,984,180. Inland Money Orders increased also and recovered the ground lost last year. Foreign Money Orders also show an increase as regards the United Kingdom and the United States. Orders were issued on India for the first time, and were made use of to the extent of £2,735.

Three Post Offices were added during the year, and there are now 70 in the Colony. Of these 43 are telegraph stations, 36 are Money Order Offices, 22 are Savings Banks, and 8 are travelling offices.

The length of telegraph lines throughout the Colony is 462 miles, and there are 17 cables with an aggregate length of 84½ miles. 74,254 paid messages were sent, and 12,275 service messages. The total gross revenue derived was £4,476.

The public Telephone Service in Georgetown had 457 renters. The charges are £5 for business premises, and £2 10*s.* for private houses. There is also a small service in the Town of New Amsterdam, and the Police Stations in Georgetown have their own separate service.

The cost of maintenance, exclusive of salaries, of the Telegraph and Telephone Services was £791, and the total receipts £4,476.

Savings Banks.

There was no further shrinkage in the Treasury Savings Bank deposits last year ; indeed, a slight increase has to be recorded, the amount standing at credit of depositors on 31st March being £234,499. 3 per cent. is paid on deposits, and the funds are invested in Government Securities. The expenditure amounted to £6,306 and the revenue to £8,661.

As regards the Post Office Savings Banks, of which there are twenty-two now scattered about the Colony, nothing appears to check their progress or lessen their popularity. In 1892–3 the deposits amounted to £12,500. In 1895–6 they had risen to £26,000, and in the year under review they reached £30,373. On these deposits also interest at the rate of 3 per cent. is paid.

Railways.

One of the most important works in the development of the interior of the Colony was successfully accomplished during the year. Some 60 miles from its mouth the Demerara River approaches the Essequebo to within a distance of 16 miles. Across this strip a light railway has been constructed, with the result that a point on the Essequebo River on the way to the gold-diggings formerly reached *viâ* Bartica in three to four days after leaving Georgetown is now brought within nine hours of Georgetown, and dangerous falls on the way are avoided.

The Railway has been built by a local firm who obtained from the Government a loan of £42,000 repayable without interest in instalments extending over 20 years. The line was opened in January last, and full advantage has been taken of it. There are neat little hotels at each end connected by telephone, and a large island on the Essequebo opposite the railway terminus is being gradually cleared and settled.

Railway works on the Coast have also progressed. Surveys have been completed for the extension of the Demerara Railway Company's lines from Mahaica to Blairmont on the Berbice

River, and the construction of a new line along the West Coast of Demerara. The contract has been signed, and work has commenced.

On the Corentyne Coast the survey undertaken by the Government as a basis on which to call for tenders for the construction of a steam tramway has been finished and plans and sections received.

METEOROLOGICAL.

There was no atmospheric disturbance worthy of mention. The rainfall was again low (78 inches). The mean temperature is about 82 degrees.

CHARLES T. COX,

Assistant Government Secretary.

Guiana Public Buildings,
Georgetown, Demerara,
1*st October*, 1897.

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No. 207.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1896.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 184.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
September 1897.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN

1897.

[C.—8650.—5.] *Price* 2*d*.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
169	Zululand	1895
170	Sierra Leone	,,
171	Gibraltar	,,
172	Malta	,,
173	Barbados	,,
174	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
175	Falkland Islands	,,
176	St. Helena	,,
177	Bahamas	,,
178	Hong Kong	,,
179	Windward Islands	,,
180	Labuan	,,
181	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
182	Seychelles	,,
183	Mauritius and Rodrigues	1894 and 1895
184	British Honduras	1895
185	Lagos	,,
186	Basutoland	1895–96
187	Ceylon	1895
188	British Guiana...	1895–96
189	Gold Coast	1895
190	Jamaica...	1895–96
191	Canada	1895
192	Bermuda	1896
193	Bahamas	,,
194	Zululand	,,
195	Gambia	,,
196	Malta	,,
197	British New Guinea	1895–96
198	Turks and Caicos Islands	1896
199	Barbados	,,
200	Leeward Islands	1895
201	Trinidad and Tobago	1896
202	Gibraltar	,,
203	Fiji (Trade)	,,
204	Straits Settlements	1895
205	Do. do.	1896
206	Falkland Islands	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.

No. 207.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

(For Report for 1895 *see* No. 184 of this Series.)

GOVERNOR WILSON to Mr. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Belize, 14th July, 1897.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the Report on the Blue Book of the Colony of British Honduras for the year 1896, by Mr. E. B. Sweet-Escott, C.M.G., the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.

D. WILSON, Governor.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF BRITISH HONDURAS FOR THE YEAR 1896.

Taxes, Duties, etc.

The only additional tax imposed in 1896 was an export duty of 50 cents a ton on logwood. The loss of revenue which resulted from adding to the free list at the close of 1894, beef, pork, and flour, the insufficiency of ordinary sources of revenue to meet ordinary and current expenditure in 1895, and the necessity of providing additional ways and means to pay the amount charged by the War Department for the presence in the Colony of a detachment of the West India Regiment in December, 1894, and for the first six months of 1895, which had in part been advanced from General Revenue, and to cover the cost of the completion of the Railway Survey to the Western Frontier, led to the passing of Ordinance No. 1 of 1896, imposing an export duty on logwood. The following statement shows the revenue derived from this tax up to the 28th May, 1897, and the manner in which that revenue has been appropriated :—

14358*—75—8/97 Wt 20613 D & S. 5

CREDIT.	$	c.	DEBIT.	$	c.
Duty realised in 1896	14,925	00	Advances to Military in 1895.	7,742	90
Duty realised in 1897 up to 28th May.	6,271	00	Expenses of Railway Survey, 1896.	6,296	42
			Compensation paid in 1895 and 1896 for losses by riots.	975	30
			Balance of Debt to War Department paid in 1897.	7,441	49
			Expenses of Railway Survey paid in 1897	1,970	63
	21,196	00		24,426	74

From the foregoing it will be seen that $3,230 74 cents are still wanting to pay off the charges on this special tax. In view, however, of the condition of the logwood industry, and the unremunerative prices realised by recent consignments of logwood, and in view also of the desirability of providing additional sources of revenue of a permanent nature to meet the interest and sinking fund on the loans which it is proposed to raise for the construction of a telegraph line from Belize to the southern frontier of the Colony, and for dredging the bar of the Belize River, and the reclamation of a large area on the north-east side of the town, it was decided to repeal Ordinance No. 1 of 1896, and to introduce a Bill to reimpose a duty of $1 a barrel on beef and pork, and 50 cents a barrel on flour. Such a Bill was accordingly introduced on the 28th May, 1897, and, with the unanimous approval of the Legislative Council, became law as Ordinance No. 12 of 1897 on the same day. The reimposition of duty on these articles will add approximately $14,000 a year to the ordinary revenue of the Colony, and thus enable the Government to undertake important services which before were beyond its power.

General Revenue and Expenditure.

The total General Revenue of the Colony for 1896 amounted to $302,686·25, including $2,066·51 from the sale of lands, $14,925 the proceeds of the export duty of 50 cents a ton on logwood, and $788·32 realised by the sale of certain portions of the equipment of the Railway Survey party. The total general expenditure for 1896 was $269,877·33, including a sum of $7,085·99 for the completion of the Railway Survey to the Western Frontier, $386·45, being further charges in connection with the change of currency to a gold standard, not previously brought to account, and $55[illegible]·10, for the Belize Town and Harbour Improvements. The General Revenue for 1896 exceeded

the Revenue for 1895 by $18,074·12, whilst the expenditure for 1896 was less by $15,084·02 than the expenditure for 1895. The principal sources of revenue in 1896 were :—

Customs	$156,214·71.
Light and Wharf Dues	$ 8,696·55.
Excise	$ 71,979·80.
Court fines, fee of office, etc. ...	$ 22,064·40.
Export duty on logwood	$ 14,925·00.

The revenue and expenditure of the various District Local Funds is given under District Boards.

Assets and Liabilities.

The position of the Colony at the end of 1896 in respect to its Assets and Liabilities is shown in the following table, which also gives the position at the close of the previous year :—

		1895. $	1896. $
GENERAL ACCOUNT ...	Assets	37,845·24	76,755·77
	Liabilities ...	19,083·41	15,979·04
Excess of Assets		18,761·83	60,776·73
SAVINGS BANK ACCOUNT	Assets	22,307·00	25,333·79
	Liabilities ...	20,998·28	24,118·72
Excess of Assets		1,308·72	1,215·67
PUBLIC DEBT ACCOUNT	Assets	24,916·18	28,637·19
	Liabilities ...	168,815·00	168,815·00
Excess of Liabilities ...		143,898·82	140,177·81

It will thus be seen that, whilst the Public Debt Account of the Colony was decreased by $3,721 1c. in 1896, it assets on the General Account were increased by no less than $42,014 90c., and that balance available for the year 1897 was $60,776 73c.

Local Boards.

The policy of the Government has in the main been directed of late years towards decentralization, and considerable attention has been paid to the development of the country districts. In pursuance of this policy the Local Boards, which were of comparatively recent origin, and which were formerly advisory rather

BRITISH HONDURAS. 1896.

than executive bodies, were constituted in 1895 as District Boards, and were granted extensive powers in all matters of a municipal nature by Ordinance 30 of 1894. The District Boards also became the Local Road Boards and Local Boards of Health, and their powers are limited only by the amount voted annually by the Legislature, which amount represents, as a fact, the total revenue estimated to be derived during the year from the following sources:—property tax, licences on dogs, horses, mules, asses, carriages, drays, and drivers, market rents, and slaughter house fees, liquor licences, and cemetery fees. In the Belize district there are a few additional sources of revenue including, in the capital itself, a fire rate, at present fixed at 1 % on annual value. Each district frames its own estimates of revenue and expenditure, and such estimates, when passed by the Legislative Council, form the basis of its disbursements during the year. The members of the District Board are taken from the most representative men of the district, and in the country districts the commissioner is ex-officio chairman, but the chairman of the Belize District Board is the Colonial Secretary. Not only are the District Boards of great value in matters relating to their own districts, but they are often in a position to afford the Government useful information regarding questions which closely concern the whole Colony. In a measure the District Boards may be viewed as taking the place of representatives of the districts, and their existence has, in part, if not altogether, removed the want that may have been felt in certain quarters for an elected element in the Legislative Council.

The following statement shows the revenue and expenditure of the several districts for the years 1895 and 1896, and the amount standing to the credit of each district local fund at the end of 1896:—

District.	Revenue.		Expenditure.		Balance to credit at at end of 1896.
	1895.	1896.	1895.	1896.	
	$	$	$	$	$
Belize	21,491·82	23,088·39	19,015·62	22,335·82	4,669·57
Corosal	4,159·92	3,717·70	3,924·40	4,482·10	698·21
Orange Walk	3,195·07	3,199·68	1,999·73	2,568·98	2,162·40
Stann Creek	1,451·96	1,276·79	1,400·34	1,712·99	153·67
Toledo	697·06	739·22	602·65	698·55	746·82
The Cayo	700·00	754·25	499·40	388·42	616·43
Total	31,695·83	32,776·03	27,442·14	32,186·86	9,047·10

Legislation.

Only five ordinances were added to the Statute Book in 1896, and of these Ordinances, Nos. 1 and 5 need alone be noticed. The former imposed a duty of 50 cents on each ton of logwood exported, whilst the latter appropriated the revenue so raised for the specific purpose of paying the cost of completing a survey for a railway from Belize to the Western Frontier, reference to which is made under the heading "Railways, Canals, and Roads," of discharging the debt to the War Department that the Colony incurred by a detachment of the West India Regiment being stationed in Belize during the latter part of December, 1894, and the first six months of 1895, and of making compensation to those who suffered losses owing to the riot of the 16th December, 1894. It was intended, and the law so provided, that the cost of dredging the bar of the Belize river should also be defrayed from the proceeds of the logwood tax, but the extension of this scheme, by which it is now proposed to reclaim from the sea a large tract of land on the north-east side of the town of Belize, and the considerable fall in the price of logwood, rendered it desirable to repeal Ordinance No. 1 of 1896, and this has accordingly been done. Under "Taxes, Duties, &c.," further reference has been made to this logwood tax, and to the revenue that was raised therefrom.

Pensions.

Retiring allowances and gratuities are regulated not by local law, but by the Imperial Pension Act, 22 Vict. c. 26, and the pensions for which the Colony was liable at the end of 1896, amounted to $5,543·57, showing a decrease, owing to the death of two pensioners, of $411·60 on the total payment for allowancees and gratuities in 1895.

Population, Vital Statistics, and Public Health.

According to the returns furnished by the Acting Registrar General, the total population of the Colony on the 31st December was 33,811, or 2,340 more than the number established by the census of 1891. The total white population is given as 453 and the total coloured population as 33,358. The ratio of population to the square mile for each of the six districts is as follows:— Belize, 7·18, Corosal, 7·14, Orange Walk, 3·50, Stann Creek, 2·28, Toledo, 4·35, and the Cayo, 3·65, giving a total of 4·47 per square mile for the whole Colony.

The following tables give the number of persons employed in agriculture, manufacture, and commerce in the different districts, and the number of births, marriages, and deaths, and the rates per 1,000 of births and deaths for the last six years:—

District.	Agriculture.	Manufacture.	Commerce.
Belize	361	56	681
Corosal	746	46	84
Orange Walk	200	40	84
Stann Creek	901	9	97
Toledo	723	5	60
The Cayo	222	9	18

Year.	Births.	Birth-rate per 1,000.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000.
1891	1,372	43·60	379	1,242	39·46
1892	1,219	38·73	372	1,282	40·73
1893	1,274	40·48	404	1,374	43·66
1894	1,162	35·32	380	1,208	36·72
1895	1,355	40·626	348	1,029	31·122
1896	1,435	43·025	288	977	28·893

In the foregoing tables the most satisfactory feature is the decrease in the death-rate, which is the lowest recorded in the past six years. With reference to this decrease the Colonial Surgeon, in his Annual Report for 1896, under the heading "Public Health," makes the following statement :—"This "diminution is all the more interesting as it occurs chiefly in "that class of affections returned as fever; the total death-"rate from dysentery also is the lowest yet recorded, being 1·799 "per thousand. Corosal still maintains its unenviable pre-"eminence of affording the largest death-rate. During 1896 the "death-rate in this district has been 42·480 per thousand. Not "only is this the highest for the year, but, in detail, this district "furnishes the highest mortality from preventable causes, *e.g.*, "dysentery, 4·832, intestinal affections, 3·221, nervous diseases, "chiefly returned as 'fits,' and convulsions, 7·046 per thousand."

Ecclesiastical.

The Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church, the Wesleyan, the Baptist, and the Presbyterian bodies are represented in the Colony, and the number of churches or chapels belonging to each denomination is given by districts in the following table :—

District.	Wesleyan.	Roman Catholic.	Baptist.	Church of England	Presbyterian.
Belize	5	5	9	8	1
Corosal	3	10	—	2	—
Orange Walk	1	13	—	7	—
Stann Creek	5	4	—	7	—
Toledo	2	5	—	2	—
The Cayo	—	9	—	—	—
Total... ...	16	46	9	26	1

In the foregoing list are included many buildings that it would be difficult to recognise as either churches or chapels, but by courtesy they are included in the list, seeing that religious services are held therein. Some are merely huts with mud walls and floors, and thatched roofs, which serve during week-days as schoolrooms. Whatever, notwithstanding, the nature of the buildings may be, great self-sacrifice and devotion are displayed by the ministers of the different denominations in making provision for the spiritual wants of the people.

None of the religious bodies receive assistance in any form from public funds.

Education.

The control of primary education in the Colony is vested by Ordinance 25 of 1892, and Regulations framed thereunder, in a Board of Education composed of the members of the Executive Council and five other gentlemen nominated by the Governor. Of this Board, which has been in existence since January, 1894, the Governor is the President, whilst the nominated members are representatives of the five religious bodies, namely, the Church of England, the Roman Catholic, the Wesleyan, the Baptist, and the Presbyterian. Though it was thought at the time of the constitution of the new Board of Education, and, indeed, was more than once stated at meetings of the Board itself, that the system of primary education laid down by the Regulations framed under Ordinance 25 of 1892, was in advance of the requirements of the Colony, the experience of the last three years of the working of the code has proved that primary education has distinctly improved since the introduction of the new system, and that greater attention has been drawn to the question of education than existed before. The drawbacks

pointed out in my report for 1893 as operative then still sensibly affect the progress of education. These drawbacks are briefly, multiplicity of languages among school-going children, want of proper roads, causing difficulty of communication, the scattered nature of population, the impossibility of establishing schools in logwood and mahogany settlements, where many children necessarily are, absence of any regular system of training teachers, and lastly, the difficulty of retaining for any time the services of good teachers owing to the relatively small salaries which managers of schools can afford to pay. But notwithstanding these difficulties, much good work has been, and is being, done in the cause of education, and this Colony is deeply indebted to the heads of the various religious bodies for the zealous and maintained efforts put forth by them to meet its educational requirements.

Considering the extent of its revenue, liberal provision is made for grants for attendance, for bonuses to teachers, for needlework grants, and for the payment of pupil teachers by the Legislative Council in the Annual Estimates, and this sum is distributed monthly, with the exception of bonuses to teachers, which are paid at the end of the year, by the Board of Education on returns rendered monthly by the various managers to the Inspector of Schools. The money so authorised by the Board of Education to be paid as Grants in aid in 1896 amounted to $13,367·56, or $132·44 less than the provision made by the Legislative Council. In 1895 the total grants amounted to only $11,136·06; but a large over-payment on account of the Grants for 1894 had been sanctioned by the Legislative Council on condition that a proportionate reduction was made in the amount to be placed at the disposal of the Board of Education for 1895. The following comparative tables for the last three years furnish details as to the number of schools in existence during that period, the denominations to which they belonged, the attendance thereat, the grants earned, the school fees collected, and the voluntary contributions made :—

A.

Year.	No. of Schools.	No. of children on Register.	Average daily attendance.	Percentage of average attendance to number on Register.	Average School Days.
1894	44	3,223	2,252	69·90	190
1895	51	3,802	2,694	70·85	166
1896	46	3,567	2,592	72·66	183

B.

Denomination.	Number of Schools.			*Government Grant.			*School Fees.			*Voluntary Contributions.		
	1894.	1895.	1896.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1894.	1895.	1896.
				$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Church of England.	8	11	11	1,280	1,919	2,631	227	669	828	830	1,452	2,893
Roman Catholic	18	21	18	3,854	4,654	5,256	371	775	987	611	1,193	2,733
Wesleyan ...	11	11	12	2,572	3,197	4,006	406	816	894	873	4,262	3,779
Baptist	6	7	4	930	1,182	1,239	89	188	205	280	1,084	1,063
Non-Denominational.	1	1	1	122	181	233	44	64	85	22	114	222

* Cents are not given.

From the above table, marked B, it will be seen that, whilst there has been an increase in the total Government grants earned by the Schools of each denomination, there has been a corresponding increase in the school fees collected, and in voluntary contributions, in every instance except as regards the latter, in the case of the Wesleyan and Baptist schools, the amounts contributed for 1896 falling slightly short of those given in 1895. The increase in the amount of school fees collected may be partly attributed to the wholesome rule laid down by the Board of Education, that in town schools the proportion of fees to the Government Grant must be one-fourth, and in country schools one-sixth, otherwise a reduction in the monthly grant awardable would be made.

Currency.

The standard of currency is the gold dollar of the United States, the gold coins of the United States being legally current at their respective values. The British sovereign and half-sovereign are legal tender for $4·86 and $2 43 respectively.

The subsidiary silver currency, coined specially for the Colony, amounts to $100,000, and is made up as follows:—

94,500	pieces	@ 50 cents	... ...	$47,250
135,000	„	@ 25 „	... ...	$33,750
126,000	„	@ 10 „	... ...	$12,600
128,000	„	@ 5 „	... ...	$6,400
Total 483,500 pieces.			Total	$100,000

There is also a bronze 1 cent piece, of which 137,000 are in circulation, with a reserve of 35,000 pieces in the Treasury strong room.

BRITISH HONDURAS. 1896.

Under Ordinance No. 32 of 1894, currency notes of the following denominations have been issued :—

One dollar.
Two dollars.
Five dollars.
Ten dollars.
Fifty dollars.
One hundred dollars.

The value of notes now in circulation is $114,903, and, against the notes issued, the Commissioners of Currency hold in the Colony $83,935, $30,968 having been remitted for investment in England in accordance with the provisions of the law.

The present currency, which was inaugurated on the 15th October, 1894, has, at the time of writing, been in force for just two years and three quarters, and has unquestionably proved a boon to the community as a whole. The profits of exporters and of the principal mercantile houses are not so large as they were before the change of the currency, but wealth is now more equally distributed. The price of labour has increased, whilst the price of commodities has decreased. Competition, due to increased facilities afforded by the change in the currency for the purchase of articles outside the Colony, has become an important factor in trade, and the speculation in commerce which previously existed, and which was due to a currency of varying value, is now a thing of the past.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following tables give the value of the Imports and Exports of the Colony for the years 1895 and 1896. A comparison with previous years would be misleading, as, up to the 15th October, 1894, their value was expressed in sols.

Imports.

Year.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	United States.	Other Countries.	Total Imports.
	$	$	$	$	$
1895	427,802	3,237	751,575	271,026	1,453,640
1896	523,208	8,551	790,458	140,420	1,462,637

Exports.

Year.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	United States.	Other Countries.	Total Exports.
	$	$	$	$	$
1895	586,841	18	331,040	366,099	1,283,998
1896	760,522	—	312,997	498,911	1,571,530

The most important features of the foregoing tables are the increase by nearly $100,000 in the total exports of the Colony for 1896 as compared with 1895, and the considerable increase in the value of imports from, and exports to, the United Kingdom. After the United Kingdom, France was the country which received the largest amount of exports from the Colony, their value amounting to $413,920, or a little over $100,000 more than the value of the exports to the United States. Below are given the principal imports and exports for the years 1895 and 1896, and their value.

IMPORTS.

Articles.	1895.	1896.
	$	$
Bacon and Ham	14,951	11,713
Boots and Shoes	42,113	54,879
Butter	19,563	15,420
Clothing	33,939	50,207
Cotton Goods	138,752	218,062
Drugs	13,139	19,610
Earthen and glassware	14,083	18,709
Hardware and Cutlery	44,757	60,361
Hats	13,724	13,856
Provisions...	87,259	110,698
Woollen Goods	24,236	16,067
Beer, Porter, &c.	19,109	20,071
Cigars	9,284	11,199
Coffee	9,964	20,921
Lumber (dressed)	9,401	17,433
Lumber (rough)	10,985	16,200
Oils (mineral)	11,096	16,497
Soap	28,748	23,497
Spirits	20,305	16,588
Tobacco	18,144	9,478
Wines, still	10,729	13,054

On the above-mentioned articles duty, either rated, or 10 per cent. *ad valorem*, is paid.

Articles.	1895.	1896.
Animals	59,360	68,311
Beef and Pork	61,774	57,975
Bullion and Coin	175,947	107,062
Fish (salted)	6,274	6,227
Flour	76,231	67,649
Indian Corn	14,862	17,576
Logwood (tons 6,739)	188,822	( ) 1,634
Rice...	25,435	18,663

On the above-mentioned articles no duty was levied in 1896.

EXPORTS.

Articles.	Quantity.	1895.	Quantity.	1896.
	Bunches.	$	Bunches.	$
Bananas	454,316	93,070	414,398	94,868
Bullion and Coin ...	—	171,863	—	77,371
	feet.		feet.	
Cedar	62,965	2,600	33,639	1,873
Cocoanuts	1,440,816	14,578	1,707,041	16,770
	lbs.		lbs.	
Coffee	16,412	2,553	11,447	2.338
	tons.		tons.	
Logwood	30,830·2½	699,525	34,539	896,565
	feet.		feet.	
Mahogany	2,868,346	151,290	2,769,676	186,682
	brls.		brls.	
Oranges	376¾	653	488¾	944
Pine apples	8,846	286	504	14
Plantains	1,044,020	5,232	985,325	9,685
	lbs..		lbs.	
Rubber	17,381	6,878	19,895	5,979
	lbs.		lbs.	
Sapodilla gum	13,254½	4,007	7,437	1,932
	lbs.		lbs.	
Sponges	8,265	2,643	19,219	4,906
	lbs.		lbs.	
Tortoise Shell	4,174½	18,957	3,203	15,055

Adopting the classification recommended in the report of the Committee on Import and Export Statistics in the Colonies, the following is a summary of the total import and export trade of the Colony for the year 1896.

CLASSES.	IMPORTS.	EXPORTS.		
		Home Produce.	Foreign Produce.	Total.
	$	$	$	$
I. LIVE ANIMALS, FOOD, DRINK, AND NARCOTICS.	553,637	124,572	33,838	158,410
II. RAW MATERIALS:				
1. Textile	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
2. Metal	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
3. Other	42,617	949,147	166,027	1,115,174
III. MANUFACTURED MATERIALS:				
1. Textile	530,324	Nil.	17,783	17,783
2. Metal	37,017	Nil.	3,746	3,746
3. Other	191,420	Nil.	6,117	6,117
IV. COIN, BULLION, AND SPECIE OF ALL KINDS.	107,622	Nil.	77,371	77,371
TOTAL	1,462,637	1,073,719	304,882	1,378,601

Shipping.

There was a slight increase in the total number of sailing vessels and steamers entered and cleared in 1896 as compared with 1895, though there was a decrease in the number and tonnage of sailing vessels entered. The following tables give the number of sailing vessels and steamers entered and cleared during the past four years, and the number and tonnage of British, American, and Norwegian vessels entered and cleared respectively :—

ENTERED.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1893	379	30,935	144	107,941
1894	414	33,586	186	121,188
1895	397	40,102	182	121,368
1896	391	35,882	185	132,317

CLEARED.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1893	360	34,198	146	110,231
1894	367	34,846	186	119,709
1895	367	32,203	182	121,513
1896	378	38,628	184	132,239

Sailing Vessels.

ENTERED.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1893	177	8,817	19	988	42	15,318
1894	188	9,127	10	608	40	14,880
1895	162	8,260	25	351	57	21,396
1896	181	9,289	19	873	47	16,597

Sailing Vessels.

CLEARED.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1893	163	9,543	16	921	45	16,660
1894	151	9,014	8	282	43	16,233
1895	160	7,620	21	343	46	16,853
1896	167	8,571	19	775	51	18,992

Steamers Entered.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1893	35	40,875	99	62,241	10	4,825
1894	31	34,843	101	62,972	38	11,994
1895	21	24,911	105	65,617	34	11,323
1896	42	48,362	103	65,842	36	15,172

Steamers Cleared.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1893	37	43,174	101	63,063	8	3,994
1894	36	36,274	100	62,462	39	12,207
1895	28	34,579	108	65,836	34	13,047
1896	41	48,413	103	65,742	36	15,143

The number and tonnage of sailing vessels and steamers belonging to other nationalities have not been given, as they are for the most part unimportant, and their comparison would serve no useful purpose. A large coasting trade with this

BRITISH HONDURAS. 1896.

Colony is, however, done by small Honduranean vessels, as will be seen from the following tables, giving the number entered and cleared during the past four years.

ENTERED.

1893.		1894.		1895.		1896.	
No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
93	1,800	115	1,958	108	1,952	112	2,440

CLEARED.

1893.		1894.		1895.		1896.	
No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
90	1,706	108	1,853	102	1,927	103	2,377

Grants of land, and Agricultural Statistics.

The following table gives the number of grants of Crown Land, and the total number of acres granted from 1894 to 1896 :—

Year.	No. of grants.	Total acreage granted.
1894	37	1,431½
1895	24	2,871½
1896	25	922½

The total number of acres granted in the colony is about 3,081,970, and there remain ungranted about 1,757,438 acres, much of which, though admirably adapted for agricultural purposes, is difficult of access, rendering the construction of pole roads essential before the land can be profitably taken up and placed under cultivation.

The estimated acreage of the colony is 4,839,408 acres, of which 52,600 acres are returned as being under cultivation, and 4,571,270 as uncultivated. The usual sale price of Crown Land for agricultural purposes is $1 an acre, whilst land can be rented at 15 cents an acre, but these rates may be increased or reduced as circumstances seem to justify. To persons who are prepared to

comply with such special conditions as the Governor-in-Council may determine in each case, as, for example, the survey of the land, if unsurveyed, fencing the land in a permanent manner, bringing a portion of the area into cultivation within a given time, expending capital in the erection of machinery or buildings or in any other manner calculated to develop or promote the resources or industries of the Colony, land can be sold or leased at practically nominal prices.

The following table gives the revenue derived by the Land Department for the years 1895 and 1896 :—

Year.	Sale of Crown Land.	Rent of Crown Land.	Timber Licenses.	Fines and Seizures under timber licenses.
1895	2,115·66	2,968·63	4,252·18	—
1895	2,066·54	4,194·30	6,745·14	1,024·48

The amount appearing under the heading "Fines and seizures under timber licenses" represents the fines imposed on certain persons cutting logwood or mahogany in excess of the quantity authorised by the Government, and on others for cutting without any authority at all. That such illegal cutting was detected in 1896 was due to the appointment of an Inspector of Licenses under the direct authority of the Surveyor General, an appointment which has been fully justified by the results obtained. In addition to the fines collected, the Government has now a claim of $12,926·10 for illegal cutting, which will shortly be decided in the Supreme Court.

Manufactures, Mines, and Fisheries.

The following table gives, by districts, the various mills and stills in operation at the end of 1896 :—

District.	Steam Sugar Mills.	Cattle Sugar Mills.	Stills.	Saw Mills.	Coffee Mills.
Corosal	2	14	13	—	—
Orange Walk	1	6	4	—	—
Stann Creek	—	—	—	2	—
Toledo	4	8	1	—	—
The Cayo	—	9	2	—	1
Total	7	37	20	2	1

There are also in the Corosal District 2 stills at present not in operation, in the Stann Creek District 3 abandoned steam mills and one abandoned saw mill, and in the Toledo District 2 abandoned saw mills. At Stann Creek, the capital of the District of the same name, there are at work a banana evaporator and small mill.

Sugar is manufactured almost entirely for home consumption, and, were it not for the import duty of 1½ cents per lb. on unrefined sugar and 2 cents per lb. on refined sugar, all the sugar mills in the Colony, with the exception possibly of those in the Cayo District, would be closed. The heavy cost of transport to the Cayo from Belize practically acts as an additional protective duty on sugar produced in that district.

With regard to timber for building purposes I can only repeat what I stated in my report for 1893. "The Colony, instead of importing timber for building purposes, should be able to supply all that is required in that direction." Woods of all kinds, admirably adapted for building and for furniture, exist in almost unlimited quantities in every district of the Colony, and only capital is wanted to enable British Honduras to supply foreign markets, after satisfying home requirements, with timber which would command a ready sale. But as it is, nearly all the timber used in wooden buildings in the Colony is imported from the United States, and as has been mentioned above, one saw mill in the Stann Creek District, and two in the Toledo District have been abandoned, though whether this is due to want of proper machinery, to imperfect knowledge of the business, or to lack of capital, it would be hard to say. It was for some time hoped that valuable minerals would be found in the vicinity of the Cockscomb Mountains in sufficient quantities to enable them to be worked at a fair profit, but so far the reports of experts on the specimens sent home for assay have not been favourable, and, though undoubtedly gold exists, it has not yet been found in such quantity as would justify mining operations.

The attempt to develop the sponge industry in the waters of the Colony, which it was hoped would prove successful if undertaken by anyone who thoroughly understood the business, and possessed sufficient capital to work it, has disappointed the expectations formed, and after a trial of two years by an expert with proper apparatus, the undertaking has been abandoned.

Criminal Statistics.

The number of offences reported to the police or the magistrates during the year 1896 was 2,251, against 2,248 in 1895, and 2,065 in 1894, whilst the number of persons summarily convicted was, in 1896 1,521, in 1895 1,462, and 1894 1,320.

In the Supreme Court, out of 74 informations 55 judgments for the Crown were given in 1896, as compared with 35 judgments out of 87 informations in 1895, and 39 judgments out of 67 informations in 1894. There are no trials on indictments and no bills, as no grand jury exists. The Attorney General merely files an information, and, when he thinks proper, enters a *nolle prosequi*.

Gaols and Prisoners.

The Blue Book Reports for 1891, 1892, and 1893 dealt fully of the gaols of the Colony, and it is unnecessary to repeat the remarks made therein. The present system of Prison Administration appears to be the best that the present circumstances of the Colony admit of. The prison in Belize may be regarded as the Central Prison, in which all prisoners sentenced to more than three months imprisonment are confined. In each of the Capitals of the districts other than in Belize there is a small gaol under the direct orders of the Commissioner, but which is visited from time to time by the keeper of the Belize Prison, who reports on its condition and who makes such recommendations thereon as he may consider desirable. Flogging is never used as a punishment in the District Prisons, and is only resorted to in Belize in cases of gross and repeated insubordination, of assaults on warders or prisoners, and of attempted escapes. There were only three cases of flogging in 1896.

The following table gives the total number of prisoners committed to all the prisons of the Colony for penal imprisonment, and the daily average number of prisoners in the Belize Goal from 1892 to 1896 :—

Year.	Prisoners committed for penal imprisonment.	Daily average number in Belize Gaol.
1892	371	45·70
1893	395	48·76
1894	369	52·04
1895	428	54·21
1896	568	77·61

Hospitals, Lunatic Asylum, and Poor House.

In my report for the Blue Book for 1893 I referred at some length to the Medical Institutions of the Colony, and to the hospitals then existing must now be added the one established at the end of 1895 at Punta Gorda, the capital of the Toledo District, which holds four beds, and is sufficient for present requirements.

BRITISH HONDURAS. 1896.

The following table shews the number of patients under treatment at all the Institutions during 1896 :—

	Institution.	Remained at beginning of 1896.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.	Remained at beginning of 1897.	Average daily.
Hospitals.	Belize - -	18	264	238	34	10	13·24
	Corosal - -	8	179	177	15	10	9·29
	Orange Walk -	7	128	123	10	2	3 66
	Punta Gorda -	—	43	41	2	—	1·01
Belize.	Lunatic Asylum	28	12	10	2	28	26·42
	Poor House -	15	11	4	9	13	13·01

The Medical Department is now fully manned, provision having been made for the appointment of an Assistant Colonial Surgeon to every district of the Colony, and of a supernumerary Assistant Colonial Surgeon to replace any officer on leave, and to perform such extra services as may be required in outlying districts. At the head of the Department is the Colonial Surgeon, who no longer enjoys the right of private practice, and is, therefore, available to visit the country districts from time to time, and to inspect the Government Institutions therein. In the Districts of Toledo, Stann Creek, and the Cayo, the duties of District Commissioner will continue to be performed by the Assistant Colonial Surgeon, the medical duties being subordinate to those of an executive and judicial nature, but in the Orange Walk District, which has increased in importance of late years, the dual appointment will not be continued. It is proposed, as soon as circumstances admit, to establish small hospitals at Stann Creek and the Cayo, the capital towns of the districts of the same names.

The Orange Walk Hospital, the opening of which was referred to in my report for 1893, and the destruction of which by fire was recorded in the report for 1894, has now been rebuilt on a more convenient site, and on a better plan. This building was, however, only opened at the beginning of this year, and a small hired house served during 1896, as it had done during 1895, as a hospital. The arrangements for the nursing of patients in the Belize, Corosal, and Orange Walk Hospitals has now been placed on a satisfactory basis. The system of training natives of the Colony to act as nurses, initiated by Miss Beresford, who came out from England in June, 1894, to act as head nurse of the Belize Hospital, and who left in October of the year following owing to ill-health, has been successfully continued, and, in addition to trained nurses at the Belize, Corosal, and Orange Walk Hospitals, there are

nurses in training at the first-named hospital, who receive regular instruction from the Assistant Colonial Surgeon in charge of the Institution.

Meteorological Observations.

According to the observations taken at the meteorological station at Belize, the maximum shade temperature in 1896 was 94·6 in September, 93·2 in October, 92·4 in June, 91·2 in November, and 91·0 in August, and 90·2 in July, whilst the minimum temperature recorded was 59·0 in February, 59·8 in January, 62·0 in March, and 63·0 in December.

The total rainfall for the year was 73·98, and rain fell on 100 days. The greatest rainfall occurred in November, with a total of 17·48 inches, and the least rain fell in February, the amount being only 0·50 inches, or 2·49 inches less than the average for that month for the fourteen years previous.

The following table gives the total rainfall, and the number of days on which rain fell during the last seven years :—

Year.	Total Rainfall, inches.	No. of days rain.
1890	74·31	124
1891	66·82	115
1892	72·64	119
1893	51·26	109
1894 May to December.	63·95	97
1895	91·06	125
1896	73·98	100

Speaking generally, the rainiest months are June to November, and the driest December to April, though heavy rains often fall in December and January.

Government House.

The much needed extensive repairs to Government House, to which reference was made in the Blue Book Reports for 1892 and 1893, have at last been completed, $2,500 having been spent thereon in 1895, and a similar sum at the beginning of the present year. The outhouses, stables, and coach house, and fence round the grounds are now in a creditable condition, and new Private Secretary's quarters, to contain an office for the Governor, are being erected to the south of Government House, and when finished will be both comfortable and convenient. The old quarters, which are unfit for habitation, will then be pulled down, to the considerable improvement of the appearance of the grounds.

BRITISH HONDURAS. 1896.

Roads, Railways, etc.

The difficulties in the construction of roads were referred to in my report on the Blue Book for 1893, and I then stated that until population and wealth increased, and the country was more opened up, the rivers and sea must continue to be the principal highways of communication. In river communication British Honduras is exceptionally fortunate, and the absence of roads in the sense understood in England is not so keenly felt as it would otherwise be. With a total population for the whole Colony per square mile of only 4·47, and with a greater part of the country covered either by primeval forest or bush, it is manifest that, except in the immediate neighbourhood of centres of population, proper roads are out of the question. What is possible in each district in the way of keeping clear truck paths and bridle paths between the different villages, and in bridging the small creeks, which, during the rainy season of the year, are apt to become swollen torrents, is done, but when it is stated that a road cleared in one year along its whole length to a width of forty feet will become the year following overgrown by bush, and obstructed by fallen trees, it will be seen how difficult a task the Colony is set in endeavouring to open, and to maintain when opened, road communication between the various districts. Much good work, however, has been, and is being, done by the District Boards in their capacity as Road Boards, and considerable sums are annually spent by them on road service. At present the clearing of roads is generally done by contract, but it is a question whether a more efficient system would not be the employment of hired gangs of men in each district working under the directions of the District Road Board, assisted by the advice of a competent officer as road surveyor, with experience of the work of making roads in a country like British Honduras. Probably the only objection to such a system would be the question of expense, and, considering the sparsity of population, it is doubtful whether such expense would be justified. It is probably to a railway that the Colony must look for the opening up of its rich lands in the interior. But here again the heavy expense that would be entailed by the construction and working of a line of Railway, and the uncertainty as to the returns to be derived therefrom, render it doubtful whether the Government should itself undertake such a service. The completion of the Railway survey from Belize to the Western Frontier which took place in 1896, has proved that a railway can comparatively easily be constructed ; but the estimate, given in the appendix to Mr. Shelford's Report, of the cost of a Railway to the extreme limit of the Western Frontier facing the country of Guatemala, complete and ready for traffic, with a pier at Belize extending into 24 feet of water, is no less than £734,663. Assuming, however, that this is an unnecessarily liberal estimate, and that the total cost will not exceed £500,000, the interest and sinking fund on a loan for such a sum would practically mean an

annual charge, until redemption, of just £25,000, a sum equivalent to about two-fifths of the present revenue of the Colony. It is not unlikely that the Government of Guatemala, with the view to developing the rich Province of Peten, which is said to be inaccessible to any railway system save on the British Honduras side, might be induced to construct a line through Peten, if a line were completed from the Western Frontier to Belize, and such an arrangement would be to the mutual advantage of both countries.

Post and Telegraph.

The total revenue of the Post Office for 1896 was $6,492·15, and the total expenditure, $17,117·34 ; this latter sum including $6,525·51 for salaries and wages, and for all expenses of the Postal Service within the Colony, and $10,591·83 for the conveyance of mails beyond the Colony. The number of letters and other articles sent to, and received from, abroad from 1893 to 1896 was as follows :—

	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
Ordinary letters	79,985	86,932	105,425	120,445
Registered letters	2,897	2,893	3,797	4,109
Post cards	1,810	2,425	2,144	3,145
Newspapers, books, etc.	61,078	61,125	67,819	83,592
Postal parcels	579	597	772	1,228

The amount of inland correspondence for the same period is given in the following table :—

	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
Letters	35,507	40,638	36,187	52,835
Post Cards	—	—	—	—
Newspapers, books, and parcels ...	7,502	8,780	7,311	11,174

The transactions in connection with the money order system from 1894 to 1896 were as follows :—

Money Orders issued on the United Kingdom, etc.

1894	£695 13 3
1895	£823 7 6
1896	£881 1 5

Money Orders drawn on the Colony,

1894	...	...	...	...	£103 12 7
1895	...	...	...	...	£174 12 6
1896	...	...	..	...	£265 19 8

The foregoing tables show that there has been a marked increase in the Post Office business during the past four years. The growth in the postal parcel service may be ascribed to the greater facilities which exist for the conveyance of parcels by direct steamers between New York and Belize, whilst the steamers of the Liverpool Harrison Line, which call about once in five weeks, also carry the parcel post when they can be utilised with advantage. Arrangements are now in force for the interchange of money orders between Belize and Jamaica, Barbados, and Grenada, and it is hoped that in time the system will be extended to all the other West Indian Colonies. The question of establishing a money order system with the United States is engaging the attention of the Home Authorities, and there is every reason to anticipate that the necessary formalities will soon be completed. Hitherto the Post Office Department has been directed by the Treasurer and Collector, but its increased work and importance have necessitated the creation of a separate department under a Postmaster, who will also be at the head of the Telegraph Department when such is established. Provision has been made for the creation of a new Post Office, the present room being too small for the requirements of the service. There is at last a definite prospect of British Honduras being placed in direct telegraphic communication with the outside world. The Government of Guatemala has expressed its willingness to extend its telegraph system from Livingston to the Southern Frontier of the Colony so soon as the Colony begins to construct a line from that frontier to Belize. A competent telegraph engineer will shortly visit the Colony to survey the proposed line for a telegraph from Belize to the River Sarstoon, and to furnish an estimate of the cost of the undertaking and of the annual charge for upkeep, and, should the amount prove to be within the financial capacity of the Colony, the work will be begun with as little delay as possible, and the cost defrayed by a loan. The carrying out of this scheme is not only desirable as bringing British Honduras into telegraphic communication with the United Kingdom and elsewhere, but as establishing a telegraph system between Belize and the important fruit ports in the two southern districts of the Colony.

E. B. SWEET-ESCOTT,

8th July, 1897. *Colonial Secretary.*

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 210.

HONG KONG.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1896.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 178.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

October 1897.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1897.

[C.—8650-8.] *Price* 1*d*.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
177	Bahamas...	1895
178	Hong Kong	,,
179	Windward Islands	,,
180	Labuan	,,
181	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
182	Seychelles	,,
183	Mauritius and Rodrigues	1894 and 1895
184	British Honduras	1895
185	Lagos	,,
186	Basutoland	1895–96
187	Ceylon	1895
188	British Guiana	1895–96
189	Gold Coast	1895
190	Jamaica	1895–96
191	Canada	1895
192	Bermuda	1896
193	Bahamas...	,,
194	Zululand	,,
195	Gambia	,,
196	Malta	,,
197	British New Guinea	1895–96
198	Turks and Caicos Islands	1896
199	Barbados	,,
200	Leeward Islands	1895
201	Trinidad and Tobago	1896
202	Gibraltar	,,
203	Fiji (Trade)	,,
204	Straits Settlements	1895
205	Straits Settlements	1896
206	Falkland Islands	,,
207	British Honduras	,,
208	Sierra Leone	,,
209	Grenada	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.

No. 210.

HONG KONG.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 178 of this Series.)

GOVERNOR SIR WILLIAM ROBINSON to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Hong Kong,
23rd July, 1897.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the Blue Book for 1896, and to submit for your information the following general review of the year.

FINANCES.

The revenue collected during the year shews an increase of $123,650.05 over the revenue of the preceding year, the gross receipts amounting to $2,609,878.94 as against $2,486,228.89 collected during 1895. This very satisfactory result is, however, more than accounted for by the exceptionally large receipts derived from Land Sales, which realised $270,858.99 or an increase of $140,387.20 over the proceeds from the same source of revenue in the previous year.

Substantial increases are also shewn under the following heads :—

(*a*) Light Dues - - - - -	$9,998
(*b*) Fines - - - - - -	27,289
(*c*) Licences - - - - - -	5,000
(*d*) Stamps - - - - - -	9,477
(*e*) Rent of Government Property, &c.	7,175

There is also a general increase under "Fees of Court or Office, &c.," but it is chiefly accounted for by the transfer to the revenue side of items which were treated in 1895 as appropriations in aid of expenditure.

14650*—75—9/97 Wt 20613 D & S—5 (B)

HONG KONG. 1896.

Against the above mentioned increases must be set the following noticeable decreases :—

(*a*) Profits on Subsidiary Coins - $42,404

(*b*) Other Miscellaneous Receipts, due to a falling off in the profits derived from balances in the hands of the Crown Agents. - 64,585

(*c*) Interest - - - - - 5,936.

EXPENDITURE.

The total expenditure, chargeable to current revenue, amounted to $2,474,910.37 as compared with $2,972,373.01 expended during 1895. This marked difference is mainly due to a decrease of $768,331.07 in the expenditure on Public Works Extraordinary, the sum expended in 1895 on the Taipingshan Improvement Scheme amounting to $821,261 as against only $17,847 so expended during the year under review. There is also a saving on salaries of some $11,000, and a decrease in the expenditure of the Post Office on account of Transit Charges amounting to $5,959, giving, with the addition of other minor decreases, a total decrease in expenditure of $795,248.15 as compared with the year 1895.

From the above total decrease must be deducted a total increase of $297,785.51, giving a net decrease of $497,462.64 in the expenditure for 1896 in comparison with the preceding year.

The increases are distributed and accounted for as follows :—

(1) Military Expenditure, $156,971.

(2) Charge on account of Public Debt, being the contribution to the new Sinking Fund, $16,779.

(3) Fire Brigade, $13,786, due to the purchase of a new Floating Fire Engine.

(4) Sanitary Department, $10,736, due to an increase of the staff.

(5) Public Works Recurrent, $15,184, due to extensive repairs to Government Buildings during the year, the cost of maintenance of the new Kowloon Waterworks, and the improvement of street lighting.

(6) Appropriations in aid of expenditure transferred to General Revenue, $65,096.

The expenditure on Public Works Extraordinary, chargeable to Loan, amounted to $230,619.32 for 1896 as against a sum of $183,186.27 expended thereon in 1895.

The surplus of Revenue over Expenditure chargeable thereto, amounting to $134,968.93, must be regarded as fairly satisfactory, and more especially in view of the fact that whilst the receipts were undoubtedly affected to some extent by the prevalence of Bubonic Plague in the Colony during the year, the expenditure was increased by some $71,000 on account of the measures adopted to suppress the epidemic.

LEGISLATION.

The following are the most important Ordinances passed by the Legislative Council during the year :—

(1) An Ordinance to amend the practice as to the vacating of the registration of a Lis Pendens, which follows the lines of the English Act (30 & 31 Vict. c. 47) and brings the Law of this Colony into line in this respect with that prevailing in England.

(2) An Ordinance to amend and consolidate the Law relating to Factors, which introduces (*mutatis mutandis*) the provisions of the English Factors' Act of 1889.

(3) An Ordinance for codifying the Law relating to the Sale of Goods, which brings into force the codification of the Law relating to the sale of goods which is contained in the English Sale of Goods Act 1893.

(4) An Ordinance to amend the Marriage Ordinance, 1875, which enables parties to enter into a valid civil marriage before the Registrar-General even although neither party professes the Christian religion, the power of contracting such a marriage being limited to parties who are not bound by any previous marriage contracted in accordance with their laws and religion.

POPULATION.

The population on the 30th June, 1896, was estimated at 239,419, distributed as follows :—

Non-Chinese - - - -	7,870
Chinese Land Population -	193,560
Chinese Boat Population -	33,150
Army - - - - -	2,739
Navy - - - - -	2,100

In consequence, however, of the disturbances caused in the distribution of the population by the general exodus of Chinese

in 1894 and the subsequent resumption of the district known as Taipingshan, arrangements were made during last year for taking a census early in the current year, and the result of the census, which was taken on the 20th January, gives a total population of 245,000.

EDUCATION.

Owing to the prevalence of plague during the year, there was, I regret to state, a considerable decrease in the number of pupils attending the various schools. The total number of Educational Institutions open during 1896 amounted to 215, (of which 101 were Grant-in-Aid Schools and 17 were Government Schools) with an enrolment of 9,686 scholars as compared with 236 schools with 10,876 pupils in 1895. It is a noticeable fact that since the epidemic of 1894 the number of scholars attending the several schools has decreased by 2,293.

No material change has taken place as regards the nature of the education given in the local schools since the Government announced its intention to promote an English rather than a Chinese education among the native population. Only one-third of the schools can be said at present to offer an European education, and the fees charged at such schools appear to be prohibitive to the mass of the people. I am pleased to notice, however, a tendency on the part of the managers of Grant-in-Aid Schools to meet the wishes of the Government as soon as it is practicable to do so, and in view of the growing demand amongst the Chinese for an English education, the need of a Training School, which will furnish a supply of qualified native teachers and so place the means of acquiring a knowledge of the English language and Western ideas within the reach of the poorer classes, is gradually becoming more pressing, and will, doubtless, receive the early consideration of the Government.

As regards female education, the epidemic which prevailed during the year considerably reduced the general attendance at the different schools ; but, notwithstanding this temporary check, there is distinct evidence to indicate that a progressive movement is at work and that the prejudice of the Chinese against female education is gradually yielding so far at least as a purely Chinese education is concerned. On the other hand, however, the objection to an English education, as tending to imbue the minds of Chinese girls with a desire for independence inconsistent with the subordinate status assigned to them in Chinese society, still prevails and opposes progress in this direction.

TRADE.

I regret to state that from a local commercial point of view the year 1896 was somewhat disappointing. Trade was, generally speaking, unprofitable, and importers characterise it as one of the

worst years they have experienced for some considerable time— a condition of things which is illustrated, to some extent, by the returns of the Imperial Maritime Customs for Kowloon and District, the statistics shewing a decrease in the value of imports from Hong Kong to China amounting to 434,935 Haikwan Taels or some £72,722 as compared with the year 1895.

I learn on reliable authority that all classes of goods—yarns, piece-goods, metals, and sundries—were imported on a very limited scale, and sales were generally unsatisfactory, being confined, for the most part, to the supply of immediate wants. Shipping employed in Eastern waters shared correspondingly in the general depression, freights being very scarce, and rates unremunerative. The dulness in demand and general absence of all speculative enquiry are commonly ascribed to the after-effects of the China-Japan war, but reasons may possibly also be discovered, so far as the experience of British merchants is concerned, by the light of subsequent remarks and statistics illustrative of foreign competition.

The opium import for the year shews a decrease of 2,400 chests, and importers have sustained losses owing to the unfavourable rupee exchange without a corresponding rise in the price of the Indian drug in the China market. The price of the Indian product has, however, necessarily risen sufficiently to give an impetus to the production of the native drug, and the shortness of the Bengal opium crops year after year and the diminished auction sales of the Indian Government, added to unfavourable exchange conditions, are factors affecting the price of the Indian drug to such an extent, that, if such conditions continue, the native product must eventually entirely supplant the imported drug.

A noticeable feature of the year was the marked displacement of Indian cotton yarns by the Japanese product in the Chinese market, and although this fact may be in some measure accounted for by the unfavourable exchange which similarly affected the opium import, and by the closing of the Bombay mills, which tends to further penalise importers from India, there is every indication that the Japanese have taken full advantage of the situation, and there is little doubt, I fear, as to the ultimate result of the competition.

The main exceptions to the general dulness in demand during the year were the Flour trade and the Kerosine Oil trade. The former business yearly increases, and yielded very handsome profits owing to the high prices of wheat caused by the Indian famine. The kerosine trade also continued to be brisk, and the demand for the Sumatra product is advancing rapidly in China, and is being developed by German agency in this Colony.

Before concluding these general remarks on trade, it may be of some interest to quote the following extract from my speech to

the Legislative Council on the 4th December, 1893, as bearing on the situation :—

> "The Japanese are quite alive to the situation so far as it concerns them, and are not only erecting new Cotton Mills, to the number of 20 it is said, but are about to take the Import Duty off Raw Cotton. It is possible therefore that we may soon see Japan, for a time, supplying China with goods which she formerly obtained from Europe or India. It seems anomalous that whilst England should be striving to extend her commerce and commercial relations in China on the one hand, she should on the other be countenancing measures which apparently have the effect of creating competition against herself and her own productions in the East.
>
> "Under these circumstances the attention of the Community should be directed to the desirability of establishing Cotton Mills in Hong Kong. The Government is in possession of several eligible sites, and if only capitalists, either European or Chinese, will come forward and invest their capital in such enterprises, I will endeavour that, so far as the acquisition of land is concerned, they shall be treated with exceptional liberality. The success which has attended other efforts of this nature in Hong Kong ought, under these favourable circumstances, to lead to the introduction of additional local Industries, such as Cotton Spinning and Weaving, and no more fitting time than the present seems likely to occur. This matter is worthy therefore of the earnest consideration, not only of this Community, but of capitalists in the neighbouring provinces in China."

SHIPPING.

Owing to the epidemic of Plague during the year, quarantine restrictions were enforced from March to the end of July at Singapore, Manila, and the Northern ports against ships arriving from Hong Kong. With the exception, however, of Manila, these restrictions were made as little irksome as possible, and the effect on the shipping returns was inconsiderable.

The total tonnage entered and cleared during the year amounted to 16,515,953, being an increase of 883,840 tons on the returns for 1895. There were 40,244 arrivals, aggregating 8,250,853 tons and 40,219 departures aggregating 8,259,100 tons. Exclusive of River steamers and Chinese-owned vessels which in 1895 appeared under the British and German Flags, there was an increase of 142 British ships aggregating 286,557 tons or $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., an increase under the German flag of 267 ships aggregating

331,070 tons or 23 per cent., and an increase under the Japanese flag of 194,104 tons or 195 per cent. British shipping represented 53¼ per cent. of the total tonnage entered and cleared during the year (as compared with some 70 per cent. for 1894) and Foreign tonnage, exclusive of native craft, represented 21½ per cent.

The above statistics are of considerable interest as affording a further illustration of the rapid progress and commercial development of Japan, whilst the increase in the number of German vessels would appear to point to lower freights outwards in foreign bottoms and to cheaper railway transit to foreign ports of shipment.

Public Peace and Good Order.

The criminal statistics for the year are exceedingly satisfactory. The total number of cases reported to the Police was 12,975, shewing a decrease, as compared with the returns for 1895, of 400 cases or nearly 3 per cent. Dividing these cases into serious and minor offences there is a decrease, as compared with the previous year, of 453 cases or 16.37 per cent. in the former, and of 53 cases or ·49 per cent. in the latter category.

Whilst, however, it is gratifying to notice a remarkable decrease of such offences as larceny and unlawful possession, which are only too common amongst the Chinese, I regret to have to record 8 cases of murder as against 3, and 120 cases of burglary and larceny in dwellings as against 81 in the preceding year. There were also 6 somewhat serious gang robberies during the year, one of which was unhappily attended by the murder of a district watchman, for which the assailant ultimately suffered the extreme penalty of the law.

Public Health.

I regret to say that during the year the Colony experienced another serious outbreak of Bubonic Plague, and although the epidemic was neither so extensive nor so appalling in its results as the terrible visitation of 1894, it was attended by an alarming mortality and taxed the resources of the Sanitary and Medical Authorities to the fullest extent before it was finally controlled.

The disease broke out in the first week of January and continued to run its course notwithstanding every effort to arrest it until in the week ending the 30th May no fewer than 100 cases with 81 deaths were recorded. From that date the epidemic rapidly declined, although cases continued to occur until the end of November.

HONG KONG. 1896.

The total number of cases recorded during the above period was 1,204, and the number of deaths from the disease 1,078, giving a mortality rate of 89.5 per cent.

From these figures it will be observed that the extent of the epidemic was much more limited than that of 1894 which resulted in 2,550 deaths in the Colony itself, but it is a regrettable experience of the year 1896 that notwithstanding the fuller knowledge possessed by the scientific world of its nature and the improved methods of treatment, the disease does not lose any of its virulence and shewed a greater tendency to spread to Europeans, of whom 16 were attacked and 8 succumbed, including, I regret to record, two Sisters in the Italian Convent, two British soldiers, and two British employés of the Government.

During the progress of the epidemic the Sanitary Board and its staff, ably assisted by the police and some soldiers, whose services were kindly placed at the disposal of the Government, and others who voluntarily gave their assistance, were untiring in their efforts to suppress the disease. They were, however, confronted with the same difficulties at the outset that were experienced in 1894, and with a misapprehension of the situation which is essentially Asiatic, the Chinese persisted in eluding the vigilance of the Sanitary Authorities and availed themselves of every facility for the secret removal of their sick relatives and friends from the Colony. In many cases they were detected in the endeavour to dispose of their dying or dead in total disregard of all sanitary principles, casting them out into the streets or into the harbour, or at best removing them to some unoccupied dwelling. It was thus extremely difficult for the sanitary officers to discover "infected" dwellings, and it became necessary to resort to drastic measures for the general disinfection and lime-washing of all Chinese dwellings within the infected districts.

I am glad to be able to state that but little opposition was offered by the Chinese Community to this very necessary preventive measure, and to their co-operation in this matter and to the tact with which the Sanitary Authorities performed an unpleasant duty, I attribute the ultimate success which attended the efforts to confine the epidemic during its duration within comparatively narrow limits.

The expenditure incurred in dealing with the disease amounted to some $71,000 as against some $150,000 expended in suppressing the epidemic of 1894, a financial aspect of the case which serves to illustrate the comparative severity of the two visitations and indirectly the beneficial effects of improved sanitation and the value of experience even though such experience costs dearly. Another gratifying feature of the more recent epidemic was the entire absence of anything in the form of a general panic amongst

the Chinese, and the inconsiderable effect it produced upon the trade and general prosperity of the Colony, as is evidenced by the satisfactory Revenue and Shipping returns for the year. It is true that a few of the wealthier Chinese sent their wives and families away during the height of the epidemic, but there was no general exodus, no scarcity of labour, no suspension of business, no lock-up of capital; in short, none of the disastrous results which characterised the year 1894, and but little indeed to indicate the prevalence of an alarming epidemic in the Colony.

As is not unusual during the prevalence of an epidemic, the Public Health in other respects was satisfactory. The total number of deaths registered during the year was 5,860, of which 5,607 occurred amongst the Chinese. This gives a total death-rate of 24·5 per 1,000 as compared with 21·65 per 1,000 for 1895 and an average of 22·65 for the last 5 years, exclusive of 1894, the year of the disastrous plague epidemic. If deaths from Bubonic Plague are excluded, the death-rate for the year under review is reduced to 19·9 per 1,000, and compares most favourably with the average for previous years.

SANITATION.

The experience of a second epidemic of Plague reveals the necessity of further speedy and effective measures in the direction of sanitation; for it cannot be denied that the sanitary condition of the Colony is still capable of much improvement, and more especially in regard to the native quarters of the city. With this object in view I have appointed a Commission to enquire into and report on the existence of insanitary dwellings and the best method of dealing with them. It is to be hoped that the Commissioners will be able to suggest some effective remedial measures in this direction, the importance of which cannot be over-estimated, if "the house is to be put in order" against the apparently recurrent attacks of the Plague.

In the meanwhile active progress is being made in other directions. The sewerage of practically the whole of Victoria, of the Peak District, and of some of the more important villages, has been completed and over 5,800 houses have been drained and connected with the new sewers. The district of Taipingshan covering some 6 acres in extent, which was resumed by the Government after the epidemic of 1894, is being laid out in a manner that cannot fail to improve greatly the health of that district and the City of Victoria generally. In addition, something in the nature of a transformation is being effected in the smaller but populous villages by the formation of proper streets and the regulation of the occupation of land.

The water supply, which is of vital importance to the health of the community, has been increased by the raising of the dam

HONG KONG. 1896.

at Tytam Reservoir so as to impound an additional supply of 100,000,000 gallons, and the streams from an additional area of 400 acres have been intercepted by catchwater channels and led into the reservoir. A new storage reservoir to contain some 30,000,000 gallons is in course of construction at Wongneichong Gap and will be fed by the streams from a drainage area of 200 acres, furnishing a valuable contribution to the water supply of the Eastern districts. In addition to the above works two covered service reservoirs have been constructed, two others are in progress, and additional filter-beds are being made, whilst the populous villages of Aberdeen and Shaukiwan, and the greater part of the Kowloon Peninsula, including the important villages of Hunghom and Yaumati, have all been provided with a supply of excellent water, laid on to street hydrants or individual dwellings.

It will thus be seen that every attention is being paid to each branch of sanitation, and as the Chinese gradually become better acquainted with Western sanitary principles there is reason to hope that the public health will improve materially within the next few years.

CLIMATE, &c.

The average monthly temperature during the year was 72° Fahr., the highest recorded temperature reaching 94° Fahr. in the month of July, and the lowest 40·7° in the month of December. The maximum monthly temperature, viz., 88·1° Fahr. was registered for the former month, and the minimum monthly temperature—53·1° Fahr.—is credited to the month of February.

The total rainfall for the year was 72·780 inches, towards which total the months of June and July contributed over 31 inches, which, taking into consideration the high temperature that prevailed during those months, illustrates the trying nature of the summer in Hong Kong as compared with the conditions obtaining in hotter but drier climates. The greatest variation in temperature, which is another trying feature of this climate, occurred in the month of December, when the highest temperature reached 76·5° Fahr. and the lowest stood at 40·7° Fahr., a difference of more than 35 degrees in one month.

TYPHOONS.

There were four typhoons during the year, viz., on the 29th July, 9th August, 5th October, and 11th October, but that which occurred on the first mentioned date is alone worthy of special record, and is generally considered to have been the

worst hurricane experienced in the Colony since the memorable storm of 1874.

The Observatory reports indicate that the disturbance originated in the Pacific some days previously and entered the China Sea to the North of Luzon on the 28th July. Moving thence in a W.N.W. direction at a somewhat high average speed of 13 miles an hour, the centre of the storm had attained a position 150 miles to the south-east of the Colony at noon on the 29th July. Its course was maintained, and at 4 p.m. a strong gale from N.E. by N. was experienced in Hong Kong. Subsequently, the wind veered round to East by South, and the storm reached its height at 10 p.m., the Observatory anemograph recording at that hour the great wind velocity of 108 miles an hour, exceeding by 19 miles an hour the greatest velocity of the wind recorded during the very severe storm experienced in September, 1884. A strict comparison with the force of the typhoon which passed over the Colony on the 5th and 6th October, 1894, cannot be made owing to the damage sustained by the anemograph on that occasion, but it is almost certain that the velocity of the wind in July last was considerably greater.

The barometric minimum (28·87 inches) was registered at the Observatory between 9.30 p.m. and 10 p.m., whilst at Gap Rock Lighthouse, some 30 miles south of Hong Kong, the lowest reading, 28·54, was observed at 9 p.m., the centre of the typhoon at the time being within 10 miles of that station and some 40 miles distant from the Colony.

At Victoria Peak, which is some 1,500 feet above the level of the sea, the damage caused by the storm was much greater than on the lower levels, the maximum velocity of the wind being about 140 miles an hour.

A noteworthy feature of the typhoon was the small rainfall (3.09 inches during the 29th and 30th July) which accompanied it, as compared with 16·11 inches which fell during the typhoon of October, 1894.

This was perhaps a fortunate circumstance as a heavy rainfall invariably adds to the destructive powers of the wind, and I am glad to be able to record that there was but little loss of life, although a not inconsiderable amount of damage to property.

GENERAL.

In the concluding paragraphs of this my last Blue Book report from Hong Kong, it may not be inappropriate to invite your attention to the following comparisons between the years

HONG KONG. 1896.

1891 and 1896 as indicative of the general progress of the Colony during the period of my administration here.

REVENUE.

1891 - - - -	$2,025,302.51
1896 - - - -	$2,609,878.94
Increase - - -	$584,576.43

POPULATION.

1891 - - - - -	224,814
1896 - - - - -	245,000
Increase - - - -	20,186

SHIPPING TONNAGE.

1891 - - - - -	14,005,698
1896 - - - - -	16,515,953
Increase - - - -	2,510,255

TOTAL VALUE OF TRANSIT TRADE.

1891 - -	126,346,736 Haikwan Taels
1896 - -	155,280,524 „
Increase -	28,933,788 „

The history of every period and of every country contains its darker as well as its brighter records, and the history of this Colony during the past five years furnishes no exception to the rule. There are the dark pages which record the general financial depression which greeted me on my arrival, the melancholy experience of the Plague Epidemic in 1894, followed by the unfortunate outbreak of war between China and Japan, and the re-visitation of the Plague in 1896, but although these may be unpleasant reminiscences, they are experiences which have taught this Community a greater reliance on its own resources, and the test of adversity has been productive of good results in more directions than one.

The establishment of two large kerosene oil depôts, a feather-dressing factory, soap works, rattan works, match factories, coal bricquette works, and the extensions of the large sugar refineries, rope works, docks, besides other enterprises of less importance, all furnish a satisfactory illustration of the increasing public

confidence in the success of local industries; whilst the Praya Reclamation, upon which several fine buildings are in course of construction, and the rapid development of British Kowloon provide ample evidence of the general expansion of the Colony. Add to these the extensive works which have increased the water supply to some 400,000,000 gallons, the fine Central Market, Cattle and Slaughter Depôts, which have a most important bearing on the food supply of the Colony, the Taipingshan Improvement Scheme, the new sewerage works, and the general improvement of the outlying villages, and we have further illustrations of progress in the direction of sanitation.

In short, despite its darker records—and happily they are few—the history of Hong Kong is summed up in the single word "Progress." If, in some measure, my administration has contributed to that result the pleasure derived from the retrospect will tend to mitigate the regret with which I regard my approaching departure from a Colony with whose interests I have for six years, without interruption, been identified.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM ROBINSON,
Governor.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

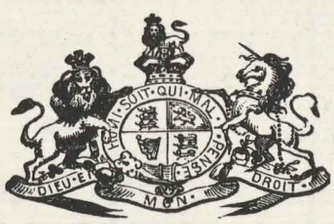
No. 225.

JAMAICA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1896-7.

(For Report for 1895-6, *see* No. 190.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
March 1898.



LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE. EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.; and
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1898.

[C.—8650-23.] *Price* 2*d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
196	Malta	1896
197	British New Guinea	1895-6
198	Turks and Caicos Islands	1896
199	Barbados	„
200	Leeward Islands	1895
201	Trinidad and Tobago	1896
202	Gibraltar	„
203	Fiji (Trade)	„
204	Straits Settlements	1895
205	Do. do.	1896
206	Falkland Islands	„
207	British Honduras	„
208	Sierra Leone	„
209	Grenada	„
210	Hong Kong	„
211	St. Lucia	„
212	St. Vincent	„
213	St. Helena	„
214	Seychelles	„
215	Mauritius	„
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1897
217	Fiji	1896
218	Ceylon	„
219	Lagos	„
220	Gold Coast	„
221	Labuan	„
222	British Guiana	1896-7
223	Rodrigues	1896
224	Basutoland	1896-7

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland ...	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific ...	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture

No. 225.

JAMAICA.

(For Report for 1895–6, *see* No. 190.)

GOVERNOR SIR H. A. BLAKE to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

King's House,
Jamaica,
29th December 1897.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith my Report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1896-7.

I have &c.,

HENRY A. BLAKE,
Governor.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF JAMAICA FOR 1896–97.

LEGISLATION.

During the Session of 1897 the Legislative Council passed 39 Laws, of which the following are the more important :—

Law 3 of 1897.—A Law to enable the Parochial Board for the Parish of Trelawny to buy out the Falmouth Water Company.

Law 4 of 1897.—A Law to provide against the unlicensed manufacture of explosives. This Law provides that no explosives shall be manufactured without a license from the Governor in Privy Council.

15770*—75—2/98 Wt 21620 D & S—5

JAMAICA. 1896–7.

Law 9 of 1897.—The Leper Asylum Law 1896, Amendment Law, 1897—which provides for the reception of lunatic lepers at the Lepers Home at Spanish Town instead of at the Lunatic Asylum.

Law 12 of 1897.—The Immigration Protection and Regulation Law, 1879, Further Amendment Law, 1897. This Law alters the terms upon which Indian immigrants shall in future be entitled to return passages. Instead of being entitled after the prescribed term of industrial service to an unconditional free passage back to the port from which he originally embarked, for himself, his wife and children, subject to the proviso that he claimed it within twelve months of the time when it was due, the Indian immigrant by this Law will be required to contribute one-fourth of such passage money in the case of males, and one-sixth in the case of females.

Law 14 of 1897.—The Military Telephone Law, 1897. The object of this Law is to enable the Governor within an area for which a license has been given already, to grant a special license to the officer commanding the troops and to the Colonial Secretary to erect a telephone for Government purposes.

Law 17 of 1897.—The Marine Board Law, 1896, Amendment Law, 1897. This Law was introduced to give effect to certain recommendations of the Board of Trade and under instructions from the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Law 19 of 1897.—The Pound Law, 1897. This Law repeals the Law on the subject of Pounds. Many of the provisions of the repealed Law are obsolete and inapplicable. The present Law proceeds upon lines which are familiar amongst the people and effects requisite improvements.

Law 22 of 1897.—The Tramways Law, 1895, Amendment Law, 1897. This Law amends the Law of 1895 in some important particulars. It provides that if an extension of a license is refused at the termination of the period fixed in such license, the Government shall purchase the tramway, lands, buildings, &c. belonging to the licensees. It also gives authority to the Government of Jamaica as well as to the local authority to require the licensees to sell the undertaking at the termination of the license upon certain terms. It alters the basis of valuation which was in the principal Law estimated on the value of all lands, buildings, works, material, and plant, and provides that the valuation shall be arrived at by also estimating the value of the undertaking as a tramway, and by taking into consideration the cost of construction less depreciation. It also provides that the revocation of a license can only take place through the intervention of the Supreme Court, which is given the necessary power to deal with the matter.

Law 23 of 1897.—The Building Societies' Law, Amendment Law, 1897. Building societies in Jamaica are constituted under

and governed by the Act 28 Vict. cap. 17, which corresponds with the Imperial Statute 6 and 7 Will. IV. cap. 32, and the object of this Law is to place the Law in this Island on a similar footing to the Law in England.

Law 24 of 1897.—The Kingston General Commissioners' Law, 1897. This law abolishes five distinct sets of Commissioners, whose powers and duties were connected with the management of an equal number of public undertakings in Kingston and substitutes one body for the same.

Law 25 of 1897.—The Marriage Law, 1897. This Law amends and consolidates the existing marriage laws of the Colony, and removes the inconvenience of having to refer to several Statutes in order to ascertain the precise legal position upon the subject of marriage. Under this Law a marriage officer holds his appointment for the whole Island, and not for a particular parish, as has hitherto been the case.

Law 30 of 1897.—The Kingston and Liguanea Waterworks further Loan Law, 1897. The object of this Law is to increase and improve the water supply to Kingston and the Liguanea Plains. It empowers the Water Works Commissioners to raise by loan the amount required for the purpose of constructing additional filter beds and reservoirs and acquiring lands, &c.

Law 31 of 1897.—A Law to provide for the acquisition of lands for public purposes. Previous to the passing of this measure, there was no general law in the Colony enabling lands to be compulsorily acquired for public purposes. Each time land was required for any public undertaking a special law had to be passed embodying and incorporating with it the sections of the Lands Clauses Law, 1872, which might be considered necessary for the purpose.

Law 32 of 1897.—The Law Officers Law, 1897. This Law abolishes the offices of assistants to the Attorney-General, and in lieu thereof provides for the appointment of an officer to be called the Solicitor-General. Under this Law, the Attorney-General and the Solicitor-General will between them perform the duty of conducting all criminal prosecutions in the Circuit Courts, hitherto performed by the assistants to the Attorney-General.

Law 33 of 1897.—The West India Electric Company's Law, 1897. This Law provides for the incorporation of certain persons as a Limited Liability Company under the name of The West India Electric Company. One of the objects of the Company is to obtain a license under the Tramways Law to operate electric tramways through and in the neighbourhood of Kingston.

Law 39 of 1897.—The Vere Irrigation Law, 1897. The object of this Law is to constitute a commission with power to raise a certain amount of money on loan for the purpose of irrigating the fertile district of Vere in the Parish of Clarendon.

JAMAICA. 1896–7.

FINANCE.

The surplus general revenue brought forward at the commencement of the year was £78,117 and the revenue collected during the year amounted to £591,864, making together a sum of £669,981, while the expenditure (including £34,458 for sinking funds) amounted to £664,222, thus leaving at the close of the year a surplus of £5,759. Compared with the previous year, general revenue shows a net decrease of £54,239 and general expenditure a net increase of £24,258.

Parochial revenues, which are devoted to parochial roads, poor relief, sanitary and other local services, and are administered by the several Parochial Boards, produced £116,774, a decrease of £1,018; this does not, however, include the advances from general revenue in aid of these funds, which amounted to £21,122. Parochial expenditure amounted to £135,842 or £7,260 in excess of the previous year, the repayment of advances from general revenue, which amounted to £17,104, not being taken into account.

The revenue specially appropriated to the construction and maintenance of main roads, parochial roads, and the reconstruction of the streets of Kingston amounted to £43,767, a decrease of £232, and the expenditure to £41,522, an increase of £5,919.

Immigration revenues were £1,681, a decrease of £9,112, and expenditure £979, a decrease of £12,069.

The following is a statement showing the whole revenue realised in the year under review compared with the previous year:—

General Revenue.

	1896-7.	1895-6.	Increase.	Decrease.
TAX REVENUE.	£	£	£	£
Import Duties	318,251	355,246	—	36,995
Light Dues	1,952	2,824	—	872
Harbour Masters' Fees ...	2,577	2,816	—	239
Rum Duties	122,524	138,725	—	16,201
Beer Duty	211	—	211	—
Licenses	732	759	—	27
Stamps	23,947	23,137	810	—
Education Tax	11,243	12,414	—	1,171
Total Tax Revenue ...	481,437	535,921	1,021	55,505
Decrease	—	—	—	54,484

General Revenue—continued.

———	1896-7.	1895-6.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward ...	481,437	535,921	1,021	55,505
NON-TAX REVENUE.				
Postal Revenue	24,072	23,594	478	—
Telegraph Revenue ...	5,364	5,858	—	494
Court Fees	8,284	9,149	—	865
Fines and Forfeitures ...	4,412	4,652	—	240
Interest on Securities for Sinking Funds.	14,199	13,428	771	—
Interest from Savings Bank	3,927	4,103	—	176
Interest other than above	4,973	6,231	—	1,258
Interest Jamaica Railway Bonds.	208	—	208	—
Reimbursements	35,969	33,594	2,375	—
Miscellaneous	9,019	9,573	—	554
Total Non-Tax Revenue	110,427	110,182	3,832	3,587
Grand Total	591,864	646,103	4,853	59,092
Net decrease	—	—	—	54,239

Specially Appropriated Revenue.

MAIN ROAD REVENUE.				
Land Tax Law 17 of 1890	398	397	1	—
Draft Horned Stock do. ...	826	875	—	49
Holdings Tax	12,898	14,372	—	1,474
Spirit Licenses	13,969	16,545	—	2,576
Agricultural Produce Licenses Law 37 of 1896.	3,685	—	3,685	—
PAROCHIAL ROAD RESERVE FUND.				
Land Tax and Quit Rent...	7,637	8,083	—	446
Carried forward ...	39,413	40,272	3,686	4,545

Specially Appropriated Revenue—continued.

———	1896–7.	1895–6.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward ...	39,413	40,272	3,686	4,545
KINGSTON STREETS RECONSTRUCTION.				
House Tax Laws 4 of 1883 and 31 of 1890.	6	31	—	25
Spirit Licenses	3,728	3,693	35	—
Other Receipts	620	3	617	—
Totals	43,767	43,999	4,338	4,570
				232
Reimbursement of Loan Expenditure.	3,605	6,447	—	2,842
Decrease	—	—	—	2,842

Parochial Revenue.

Parochial Road Tax ...	37,901	40,315	—	2,414
Parochial Municipal Revenues.	13,271	13,804	—	533
Parochial General Purposes	4,503	4,179	324	—
Poor Rates	39,339	42,600	—	3,261
Sanitary Rates	7,862	9,039	—	1,177
Fire Rates	1,561	1,631	—	70
Gas Rates	3,793	2,099	1,694	—
Miscellaneous	8,544	4,125	4,419	—
Advances from General Revenues in aid of Parochial Funds.	21,122	—	21,122	—
Totals	137,896	117,792	27,559	7,455
Net increase	—	—	20,104	—

Immigration.

———	1896–7.	1895–6.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Revenues Laws 7, 1878, Amended Law 14, 1891.	1,476	10,538	—	9,062
Miscellaneous	205	166	39	—
Interest	—	89	—	89
Totals	1,681	10,793	39	9,151
Net decrease ...	—	—	—	9,112

Summary.

General Revenue	591,864	646,103	—	54,239
Specially Appropriated Revenue.	43,767	43,999	—	232
Immigration Revenue ...	1,681	10,793	—	9,112
Appropriated Revenue ...	137,896	117,792	20,104	—
Reimbursement of Loan Expenditure.	3,605	6,447	—	2,842
Totals	778,813	825,134	20,104	66,425
Net decrease	—	—	—	46,321

The large net decrease in the General Revenue of £54,239 is almost entirely due to the falling-off in imports and rum duties caused by the depression in business to which allusion is made elsewhere in this Report. The only item showing an increase of any importance is Reimbursements, which amounted to £2,375 more than in 1895-96.

The revenue for parochial purposes, which generally varies according to the rates imposed, shews very little change ; the increases are chiefly in the Gas Rates and Miscellaneous, and the decreases in Parochial Road Tax, Poor Rates, and Sanitary Rates.

The total of revenues specially appropriated for the construction and maintenance of main roads, parochial roads, and the reconstruction of the Kingston streets shews a very small increase. The new tax under the Agricultural Produce Licenses Law 37 of 1896 produced £3,685, while the Holdings Tax and Spirit Licenses together shews a decrease of £4,050.

JAMAICA. 1896–7.

The net decrease of £9,112 on account of Immigration Revenue is due to the fact that there was no importation of immigrants during the year.

The following is a comparative statement of expenditure :—

General Expenditure.

	1896-97.	1895-96.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Charges of Debt	82,417	81,111	1,306	—
Pensions	16,962	16,096	866	—
Administrative Departments.	45,085	45,704	—	619
Government Savings Bank	3,275	3,087	188	—
Revenue Departments ...	41,066	40,018	1,048	—
Postal Service	28,355	25,887	2,468	—
Telegraph Service... ...	7,555	7,589	—	34
Judicial	45,610	44,122	1,488	—
Ecclesiastical	2,927	3,356	—	429
Medical	59,307	58,842	465	—
Constabulary	57,122	55,468	1,654	—
Grant to Constabulary Pension Fund.	3,767	3,682	85	—
Prisons	23,288	21,286	2,002	—
Reformatories	4,548	4,179	369	—
Education	67,540	65,270	2,270	—
Industrial Schools... ...	1,103	965	138	—
Harbours and Pilotage ...	2,742	3,251	—	509
Military	12,814	11,053	1,761	—
Coasting Service	1,800	1,800	—	—
Telegraph Subsidy ...	2,000	2,000	—	—
Registration Department...	4,432	4,407	25	—
Registration of Titles Department.	1,203	1,102	101	—
Island Record Office ...	1,410	1,346	64	—
Carried forward ...	516,328	501,621	16,298	1,591

General Expenditure—continued.

	1896–7.	1895–6.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward ...	516,328	501,621	16,298	1,591
Government Printing Establishment.	7,989	7,818	171	—
Jamaica Institute	2,404	1,915	489	—
Board of Supervision ...	431	508	—	77
Public Gardens	6,484	5,654	830	—
Railway	1,587	1,996	—	409
Miscellaneous	10,982	9,715	1,267	—
Jamaica Agricultural Society.	—	1,000	—	1,000
Public Works	78,515	65,831	12,684	—
Railway Extension Track	1,595	6,624	—	5,029
Lighthouses	1,719	1,722	—	3
Lighthouse Construction...	233	1,102	—	869
Contribution to Maintenance Kingston Improvement Works.	425	—	425	—
Cattle Disease Inquiry ...	1,072	—	1,072	—
Totals	629,764	605,506	33,236	8,978
Net increase ...	—	—	24,258	—

Special Appropriation.—Main Road Expenditure, Law 17 of 1870.

Maintenance	31,127	30,709	418	—
Parochial Road Reserve Fund Expenditure.	7,921	2,928	4,993	—
Kingston Streets Reconstruction.	2,421	1,966	455	—
Produce Protection Fund Expenditure.	53	—	53	—
Totals	41,522	35,603	5,919	—
Increase	—	—	5,919	—

Expenditure from Loans.

———	1896–7.	1895–6.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Portland Bridges	4,144	8,239	—	4,095
Public Tanks, Laws 17 of 1890 and 26 of 1893.	292	492	—	200
Reconstruction of Main Roads, Law 17 of 1890.	3,689	9,946	—	6,257
Contribution to Kingston Streets, Law 28 of 1894.	—	25,000	—	25,000
Mountain Roads	—	1,294	—	1,294
Expenses — Conversion of Debentures.	—	372	—	372
Jamaica Bridges, Law 20 of 1892.	—	14,842	—	14,842
Public Buildings, Laws 6 of 1893 and 40 of 1894.	—	6,608	—	6,608
Totals	8,125	66,793	—	58,668
Decrease	—	—	—	58,668

Appropriated Expenditure.

Parochial Roads	52,818	51,242	1,576	—
Parochial Municipal Objects	10,022	9,475	547	—
Parochial General Purposes.	7,860	7,072	788	—
Relief of Poor	46,898	45,754	1,144	—
Sanitary Appropriation ...	9,491	9,683	—	192
Fire Appropriation, Kingston.	1,647	1,467	180	—
Gas Appropriation, Kingston.	3,048	3,136	—	88
Kingston Theatre	4,058	753	3,305	—
Repayment of Advances from General Revenues in aid of Parochial Funds.	17,104	—	17,104	—
Totals	152,946	128,582	24,644	280
Net increase ...	—	—	24,364	—

Immigration Expenditure.

1896–7.	1895–6.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	£	£	£
979	13,048	—	12,069
—	—	—	12,069

Summary.

	1896–7.	1895–6.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
General Expenditure ...	629,764	605,506	24,258	—
Special Appropriation ...	41,522	35,603	5,919	—
Loan Expenditure... ...	8,125	66,793	—	58,668
Appropriated Expenditure	152,946	128,582	24,364	—
Immigration Expenditure	979	13,048	—	12,069
Totals	833,336	849,532	54,541	70,737
Net decrease ...	—	—	—	16,196

The net increase in the General Expenditure was £24,258. The more important increases are to be found under the following heads, viz :—Charges of Debt (£1,306) due to increased interest under Law 33 of 1894; Revenue Departments (£1,048) due to changes in the staff and annual increments of salaries; Postal Service (£2,468) for the manufacture of Postage Stamps and expenses of new daily mail service; Judicial (£1,488) chiefly in the Resident Magistrates' Courts and for meeting Crown witnesses' expenses; Constabulary (£1,654) for increasing the force and providing the necessary additional accoutrements and clothing; Prisons (£2,002) for meeting the cost of an increased number of prisoners; Education (£2,270) for meeting certain charges in respect of the previous year, an increase for grants-in-aid and for printing and stationery; Military (£1,761) for providing new arms and increasing the force; Public Works (£12,684) for new works on public buildings and taking over Myrtle Bank Hotel; and Miscellaneous (£1,267) partially due to the charge to this head of the grant made towards the Local Agricultural Society.

PENSIONS.

During the year pensions amounting to £2,187 18*s.* 2*d.* were granted under the provisions of Law 34 of 1885 and the Resolution of the Legislative Council dated 23rd October 1887, while the pension list was relieved by the death of pensioners to the extent of £875 3*s.* 6*d.*

DEBT.

No loans were raised during this year.

The public debt directly secured on General Revenue stood as follows at the close of each of the last ten financial years, after making allowance in each year for the Sinking Funds actually invested for the eventual redemption of the debt :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1887	1,491,993	3	9
1888	1,502,684	9	8
1889	1,506,883	6	0
1891	1,458,221	12	7
1892	1,520,088	4	3
1893	1,523,944	2	11
1894	1,672,299	14	6
1895	1,678,744	11	2
1896	1,666,177	14	3
1897	1,787,479	18	7

Of the total amount of debt on the 31st March 1897, £749,720 was on account of the purchase, reconstruction and extension of the railway to Ewarton and Porus, £126,500 on account of the Rio Cobre Canal, £167,000 for the erection of new bridges, and £33,900 for debentures on account of the Myrtle Bank Hotel, which has now been taken over by the Government.

In this sum of £1,787,479 18*s.* 7*d.* is included £146,000 raised for the reconstruction and conversion of parochial roads into main roads, and £102,680 raised under Law 19 of 1880 for the purposes of the several Kingston Commissions, which had been previously shown as part of the general debt of the Colony, but which it has now been decided to treat separately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A special Session of the Council was convened on the 16th June 1896, for the purpose of considering the question of obtaining the services of an expert to examine into and report upon the cattle disease then prevalent in the Colony.

This Session lasted only one day and the Council adjourned until the holding of its Annual Session, which took place on the 23rd February 1897.

The Session continued beyond the close of the year under review and finally adjourned on the 10th May 1897.

During that period the Council held 40 meetings.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The total expenditure of the Public Works Department for all purposes, including the cost of administration and supervision was £164,337 1*s.* 4*d.* The cost of administration and supervision was equal to nearly 12¾ per cent. of the cost of the work executed.

The main roads, bridges and public buildings throughout the Island were maintained in good order and improvements effected. The number of separate institutions and buildings the upkeep of which devolved upon the Public Works Department was 286 and the cost amounted to £10,748 10*s.* 9*d.*, including the maintenance of telegraph lines. The new works on public buildings performed by the department during the year cost £17,201 19*s.* 5*d.*, and consisted mainly of additional accommodation for courts and public offices, police stations, prisons, hospitals, and asylums.

The mileage of main roads, of which the upkeep is chargeable to General Revenue, was 892 miles 36 chains, an increase of 10 miles 48 chains over the previous year, and the total average cost per mile for maintenance and repair and improvements of main roads and bridges was £36 9*s.* 11*d.*, being 8*s.* less than in the preceding year. The total cost of these works was £39,577 8*s.* 10*d.*

The work of reconstructing parochial roads taken over under Law 17 of 1890 was continued during the year; the total length taken over was 987 miles 78 chains. The average cost of maintaining these roads was £21 15*s.* 1*d.* per mile.

At the end of the year there were 70 miles 54 chains of main roads and 61 miles 18 chains of parochial main roads under maintenance by contract.

The construction of bridges authorised by Law 20 of 1892 was continued, and the expenditure during the year on this work was £12,155 3*s.* 10*d.* At the close of the year, 84 out of the 104 bridges authorised were completed.

The work of constructing the New Female Lunatic Asylum was proceeded with and extensive additions were made to the St. Catherine's District Prison.

During the year 7 miles 54 chains of the mountain road in St. Andrew under Law 13 of 1895 were practically completed.

The lighthouses at Plumb Point, Morant Point, Folly Point, and Negril Point, were maintained and worked with efficiency and regularity throughout the year.

The telegraph lines throughout the Island were maintained in a state of efficiency, and as far as funds were available the remodelling and the improving of the lines were continued.

RIO COBRE CANAL.

The revenue earned during the year was £4,189 19*s.* 2½*d.*, and the cost of maintenance was £2,214 6*s.* 0*d.*

The demand for water has largely increased, and in consequence the works are continually being increased.

JAMAICA. 1896–7.

The following statement shows the Revenue and Expenditure during the last five years :—

Year.	Expenditure.			Revenue.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
1892-93	1,339	13	11	3,423	5	0
1893-94	1,238	13	4	3,302	13	11¼
1894-95	1,434	10	4	3,341	3	2½
1895-96	1,652	16	11	3,700	17	1¼
1896-97	2,214	6	0	4,189	19	2¼

CROWN LANDS.

During the year judgment was obtained against 16,342 acres of land which had been previously advertised as liable to forfeiture for non-payment of Quit Rents, and material relating to 26,180 acres liable to forfeiture was collected for publication. Including the lots recovered last year, 115 lots of land in the North-West of Kingston have been recovered under Law 43 of 1887 from the squatters who were in possession. These lots, together with premises known as Ryans Pen, which was handed over to the Government by the Mayor and Council in January 1897, comprise about 18 acres of land, and the Government are having surveys made with a view to improving this quarter of the city.

It is regretted that the scheme promulgated for the sale of Crown lands to small settlers does not appear to have been clearly understood, but there are indications that the people are now beginning to realise the advantages to be gained by the purchase of these lands.

A number of Casuarina trees were planted on the Morant Cays to replace the coconut trees which have nearly all died out, but it is feared that they have suffered badly by the drought.

LANDS FOR RAILWAY TRACK.

The acquisition of lands for the railway track is now practically completed. The expenditure during the year in acquiring these lands was £17,803. The total expenditure from 1890 to date has been £77,960 9*s.* 10*d.* for 1,160½ acres, and the average cost per acre of these lands has been £67 2*s.* 8*d.*

During the year 45,868 acres of land were transferred to the West India Improvement Company under Law 12 of 1889,

making a total of 70,356 acres or nearly 110 square miles, which have been transferred to the Company. There are still 6,444 acres due to the Company, which are now in process of forfeiture by the Government.

These lands are nearly all situated in the east of the Island, and are good cultivable lands, but badly served by roads.

RAILWAY.

The gross receipts of the Jamaica Railway Company for the year ended 31st March 1897, amounted to £98,479 12*s.* 11*d.*, and the expenditure to £71,279 12*s.* 4d., leaving a net revenue of £27,200 0*s.* 7*d.*

The receipts were made up as follows :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Goods and cattle	53,200	14	0
Passengers	38,497	12	5
Wharf	5,990	14	3
Miscellaneous	790	12	3

The number of train miles run amounted to 342,985, which gave an expenditure per mile of 4*s.* 1·87*d.* and receipts equal to 5*s.* 8·91*d.* per mile, leaving a net revenue of 1*s.* 7·04*d.* per train mile.

The number of passengers carried amounted to 384,611.

Interest was paid on First Mortgage Bonds to the amount of £33,203 4*s.*

POST OFFICE AND TELEGRAPHS.

The total Postal Revenue for the year amounted to £24,425 11*s.* 1¾*d.*, as compared with £23,569 16*s.* 9½*d.* in 1895-96, an increase of £855 14*s.* 4¼*d.* The Telegraph Revenue was £5,479 19*s.* 3*d.* against £6,156 9*s.* 6*d.* in the preceding year, a decrease of £676 10*s.* 3*d.* The net increase of the collections by the Department for the year was thus £179 4*s.* 1¼*d.* The increase on Postal Revenue over that of 1895-96 is considerably less than was the increase in either 1894-95 or 1895-96, as compared with the years respectively preceding them. This fact the Postmaster for Jamaica attributes in part to the serious depression in trade and agriculture during the year, a condition which still more markedly affected the Telegraph Revenue, though the extended use of private telephone lines was also a factor in the large decrease under the latter.

The following statement shows the revenue and expenditure for the year 1896-97, compared with the two preceding years :—

REVENUE.

Year.	Postal Revenue.																Telegraph Revenue.			Grand Total.		
	Postages.									Commission on Money Orders.			Commission on Postal Orders.			Miscellaneous.			Total Postal Revenue.					
	Packet.			Inland.			Total.																	
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1894–95	4,630	18	9½	16,343	3	11½	20,974	2	9	400	10	5	450	7	6½	228	16	9	22,053	17	5½	5,908	16	6	27,962	13	11½
1895–96	4,946	15	11½	17,542	1	7½	22,488	17	7	388	6	7	519	12	1½	173	0	6	23,569	16	9½	6,156	9	6	29,726	6	3½
1896–97	5,472	16	2	17,858	10	11¼	23,331	7	1¼	414	5	6	534	3	9½	145	14	9	24,425	11	1¾	5,479	19	3	29,905	10	4¾

EXPENDITURE.

Year.	Salaries.						Mail Conveyance.						Services.			Total Postal Expenditure.			Telegraph Expenditure.			Grand Total.		
	Head Office.			District Offices.			Inland.			Ocean.														
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1894–95	4,715	6	8	2,422	6	6	8,419	6	9	2,028	10	8	4,612	12	6¾	22,198	3	1¾	7,075	12	0	29,273	15	1¾
1895–96	4,923	16	4	2,535	9	0	9,020	2	2	1,962	1	1	4,471	15	5½	22,913	4	0½	7,618	16	8	30,532	0	8½
1896–97	5,193	12	7	2,681	8	9	9,841	2	11	2,289	1	8	5,317	17	1½	25,323	3	0½	7,556	8	5	32,879	11	5½

The increase under postages occurs chiefly on packet postage. This is attributed to increased opportunities for exchanging mails, of which 2,925 were conveyed outwards and inwards, as against 2,680 in the previous year. The increase under inland postages is attributed to the establishment of new district post offices, the extension of the daily mail service by the railway on the completion of the line to Port Antonio, and to the retention of the freight on parcels per mail coach under new contracts.

The increase in postal business generally is shown by the fact that 4,375,374 letters and postcards passed through the post offices against 4,121,644 in 1895-96. The increase in expenditure has been chiefly due to the increase in post offices, in mail services, and in postal business generally.

Mail Services.

Nine new services came into operation during the year in connection with the opening of new offices, and daily services have been established along the railway extension to Port Antonio and to places connected with it, as well as in other parts of the Island. There were also extensions of the parcels post system.

New Post Offices.

Twelve district post offices were established, making the number opened 142 against 130 in the preceding year ; 37 new post offices have been established during this and the two preceding years.

Money and Postal Orders.

The following figures give the transactions of the three years in question :—

Year.	Money Orders.					Postal Orders.		
	Jamaica Issue.		From other Countries payable in Jamaica.		Total Amount.	Issued.		Sold.
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.		Number.	Amount.	Amount.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1894-95 ...	12,472	45,489 17 6	1,822	4,955 12 10	50,445 10 4	131,825	22,286 17 6	22,097 4 0
1895-96 ...	13,116	47,242 13 0	2,194	5,441 1 1	52,683 14 1	151,770	26,721 17 6	26,383 3 0
1896-97 ...	12,548	43,963 16 8	2,711	7,050 4 1	51,014 0 9	171,035	26,857 10 0	26,577 10 0

The decrease on Jamaica money orders and the very slight increase on the face value of postal orders issued and sold may be due to the general depression; it will be noted also that the number of postal orders increased far more than the face value.

Mail Coach Service—Earnings.

	£	s.	d.
1894-95	2,616	7	0
1895-96	2,291	17	9
1896-97	2,345	1	9

The slight increase in 1896-97 is due to the establishment of four new coach services, previously established services having shown a decrease in consequence of railway extension and increased facilities afforded by coasting steamers.

Parcels Post.

The declared value of parcels was—

	£	s.	d.
1894-95	2,752	15	9
1895-96	3,002	1	8
1896-97	3,273	14	5

These figures show the increasing appreciation by the public of this convenient mode of conveyance of parcels. It is gratifying to state that notwithstanding the large number—17,113—of parcels dealt with, there has been no complaint received of loss or miscarriage of any.

Telegraphs.

The revenue and expenditure under this head have been given in the general statement. The number of messages sent and received were—

	No.
1894–95	105,719
1895–96	110,715
1896–97	96,292

The decrease in the year under review is probably attributable to depression in Agriculture and Trade.

Three telegraph stations were opened during the year.

The double current system of telegraphy introduced in February 1896 on two lines is reported to have worked very successfully during the year, and arrangements are being made for its extension to the entire "Western Main circuits."

Miscellaneous.

An auxiliary female staff of eight has been established at the General Post Office with the best possible results, the Postmaster states, to the Department and to the Public. Most post offices and the district telegraph stations are now conducted by women.

Seven additional street letter boxes have been established in and near Kingston, and the system of street delivery of correspondence has been inaugurated in Spanish Town.

AGRICULTURE.

I regret to report that the year under review was one of increased depression, both in Trade and Agriculture. Compared with the preceding year, the value of exports fell from £1,873,105 to £1,470,241, and of imports from £2,255,637 to £1,864,612, decreases of 22·5 and 17·2 per cent. respectively. The main causes of this depression were a long and severe drought throughout a considerable portion of the Island, accompanied by a falling off in prices. The drought caused a partial and in some districts a total failure of the crops. In localities like the parish of Manchester and the south-eastern part of St. Elizabeth where there are no rivers, and where the people depend upon tanks for their water supply, the distress caused by want of water as well as by the failure of crops was very keen, while a plague of caterpillars and other destructive insects accentuated the distress.

As a factor in producing depression in some districts, it may be mentioned that the peasantry in localities near the railway had to a considerable extent neglected cultivation whilst the extensions were in progress, and on their completion numbers were thrown out of employment, and had nothing to fall back upon.

Exports, except fruit and certain minor articles, fell off considerably both in quantity and value. Fruit generally showed an increase in quantity, but the total value was less.

The prices of sugar and rum were at their lowest, the value of the export for both being only £271,890 8*s*. 0*d*., as against £360,059 9*s*. 6*d*., a decrease of £98,169 11*s*. 6*d*. in value and in percentage of 24·5.

The quantities exported decreased from 390,918 to 321,468 cwt. for sugar, and 1,881,146 to 1,642,819 gallons for rum. Rum duties at the rate of 6*s*. the proof, equal to about 8*s*. 1*d*. the liquid, gallon, are placed on rum taken out of bond for home consumption. They fell from £140,078 to £124,523, a decrease by over 11 per cent.

The quantity of coffee exported fell from 84,391½ cwt. to 66,614 cwt., a decrease of 17,777½ cwt. or nearly 21 per cent. The values realised were respectively £284,822 and £210,946, a decrease of nearly 26 per cent. Ginger fell from 17,505 cwt. to 11,014, with values of £50,328 and £33,041 respectively, the percentage decreases being 37·0 in quantity, and 34·4 in value.

Fruit showed generally a decided increase in quantity, but prices were so low that lesser values have to be recorded in almost every instance. Thus the bananas shipped increased from 4,220,769 to 4,838,645 bunches, but the estimated value was £302,415 as compared with £316,569 in the previous year. Oranges were 103,702,775 in number as against 97,025,398, but the value shrank from £169,794 to £155,554.

The yield of fruit such as mangoes, which are not exported in any quantity but consumed largely in the Island, helped greatly to ward off distress in some districts, coming as it did at a time when root crops, cereals, and pulse, which could only be planted at a late season after the rains had fallen, had not yet reached maturity. Except in times of severe drought our people, wherever labour is scarce, and the export trade sluggish, subsist almost entirely on root and food crops grown around their own homesteads, and rear small stock, such as swine, goats, and poultry at little or no cost to themselves; hence a considerable shrinkage in trade with other countries does not necessarily indicate distress, though some difficulty may be experienced in paying taxes and church dues, and purchasing articles of clothing.

Foreign competition has during the year seriously depreciated the logwood industry, which is regarded in many parts of the Island as the great stand-by for keeping money in circulation. The quantity exported fell from 84,477 tons 12 cwt. in 1895-96 to 43,084 tons in 1896-97, a decrease of 49 per cent., and the value from £359,030 to £161,565, or 55 per cent.

The prices realised in Europe fell greatly, owing to large quantities of very superior woods having been received from South America and Hayti. The quantity of other woods exported showed in almost every instance a considerable increase, but this was insufficient to counterbalance the decrease on logwood.

Professor Williams, of Edinburgh, the veterinary expert referred to in the Report on Agriculture for last year, after a careful research into the cattle disease, reported that it was mainly due to a tick introduced by cattle imported from the American Continent. Stringent quarantine regulations have been adopted to insure that tick-infested or diseased cattle shall not be imported, and I am happy to say that the disease has almost disappeared.

Dependent as is the cattle industry upon the demands of the sugar properties, the future is not to be contemplated without a certain amount of apprehension, having regard to the precarious

JAMAICA. 1896–7.

condition of all but the largest sugar estates, but I am not without hope that an outlet may later on be found in Cuba for the splendid cattle bred in this Island. Turning to the many small property owners, there is a decided movement apparent for improvement in cultivation; to this end the Jamaica Agricultural Society is rendering valuable assistance, by lectures and practical demonstrations in various districts, by the institution of model farms, and by the importation of improved breeds of horses, swine, goats, and fowls.

Grape farms are being established in districts of St. Elizabeth and Westmoreland, and it appears evident that grapes can be cultivated for the American winter market, where at certain seasons remunerative prices can be realised. Experiments are also being made in the cultivation of cucumbers, tomatoes, garden eggs, &c., for exportation to the United States. A large number of orange plants, of choice varieties, have been imported from Florida and elsewhere. A soil supposed to be exhausted for ginger was treated with mixtures of Bert's manure and marl and other substances, giving a rich yield of that staple. This will restore to cultivation a large area hitherto abandoned as exhausted "ruinate." I have reason to hope that the efforts now being made to improve and develop what have been considered as minor products, will result in the production of valuable exportable produce.

BOTANICAL.

The operations of the Botanical Department were conducted with vigour during the year. The head station is now at the Hope Garden, which is the chief distributing centre. As an indication of the work done there, it may be stated that 264,000 plants were grown at, and distributed from, this Garden, besides pods and packets of seeds; 31,000 plants were distributed from Castleton, and 40,000 from the Hill Garden. The number of visitors to Hope, which is about 5 miles distant from Kingston, was over 12,000, and when the electric tramway lines, to be constructed by a company already licensed for Kingston and its neighbourhood, run past the Garden as it is proposed they shall do, the number of visitors will doubtless increase greatly. Castleton Gardens, situated among the mountains on the borders of St. Andrew and St. Mary, are also largely visited, sometimes by as many as 150 persons in a day.

The work of laying out Hope on a design to follow the natural geographical distribution of the plants to be found there, *e.g.*, East Indian, Australian, Chinese sections, &c., has been begun. A new garden at "Resource" in the mountains of St. Andrew was commenced in October 1895, and economic plants, chiefly of the Citrus family, are being planted there. Numerous experiments have been made at the Gardens with new varieties of economic plants, such as the grape, sugar cane,

pineapple. The cultivation of fodder plants and the raising of seedlings of the cedar for reforesting have also been pursued.

Besides the above work, the Department within the last few years has afforded practical instruction in agriculture to the people. A bulletin conveying information on agriculture and horticulture, chiefly on economic points, is issued monthly, and a copy sent free of cost to anyone applying therefor. One of the superintendents pays visits to different districts in the Island, on the requisition of residents. Lectures were given during the year, and practical demonstrations afforded in five of the fourteen parishes of the Island on the growth and curing of such plants as kola, cocoa, coffee, oranges, grapes, &c., and the Director of Public Gardens reports that the efforts made meet with hearty response and grateful appreciation.

At the Hope Industrial School, the older boys work daily in the Hope Gardens near by; all the boys have half an hour's daily instruction from the Superintendent of those gardens in the theory and practice of gardening. The Superintendent of the school reports that the boys can carry out details of planting, preparing land, &c., and give clearly and intelligently their reasons for so doing. Though the school hours only amount to 12 per week the school took a higher number of marks than six-sevenths of the elementary schools of the Island, thus seeming to indicate that the boys' faculties are brightened by their practical out of door occupations and instruction.

The purely scientific work of the Department has been pursued. Numerous additions, chiefly of orchids, were made to the flora of Jamaica, specimens were preserved in the Herbaria, and numerous works on botany obtained for the library.

EDUCATION.

In order that a fair judgment of the effects of the passing of the Education Law of 1892 may be formed, the results of the inspection of Elementary Schools since 1891 is given in the following table :—

Year	Schools on Government List.	Schools Inspected.	Scholars on Books.	Scholars in average Attendance.	Percentage in average Attendance of No. on Books.	First.	Second.	Third.	Failure.	Not Examined.	Fees.	Grants-in-aid, including Building Grants.
											£ s. d.	£
1896-97	924	882	98,559	58,411	59.61	168	347	338	29	42	—	47,827
1895-96	932	890	100,352	59,617	59.41	154	355	378	36	9	—	47,906
1894-95	962	923	104,149	62,587	60.09	160	345	394	37	26	—	47,886
1893-94	957	918	97,456	64,695	66.38	169	367	380	28	13	45 15 0	47,848
1892-93	912	867	92,135	52,983	57.50	143	389	379	1	44	6,649 0 0	42,682
1891-92	877	817	83,731	45,927	54.85	128	329	353	7	51	8,803 0 0	30,736
Increase on 1895-96 ...	—	—	—	—	.20	14	—	—	—	33	—	—
Decrease on do. ...	8	8	1,793	1,206	—	—	8	40	7	—	—	79
Increase on 1894-95 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	20
Decrease on do. ...	30	33	3,797	2,970	.68	6	—	16	1	17	—	—
Increase on 1893-94 ...	—	—	2,896	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	58
Decrease on do. ...	25	28	—	5,078	6.97	15	12	2	—	4	—	—
Increase on 1892-93 ...	20	23	8,217	6,634	1.91	11	—	—	35	—	—	2,224
Decrease on do. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	34	1	—	35	—	—
Increase on 1891-92 ...	55	73	16,621	13,690	4.56	26	26	25	29	—	—	17,160
Decrease on do. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	42	—	—

It will be seen from the above table that the number of scholars on the books was less by 1,793 in 1896-97 than in 1895-96 ; that the average attendance was less by 1,206 ; while there has been a slight rise in the percentage of average attendance from 5,941 to 5,961.

Taking the Island as a whole, the attendance since February 1893 has been fairly steady, with a slight downward tendency, until within the last six months of 1896-97, when, in spite of drought and other unfavourable conditions, it has increased until it has nearly reached the figures of February 1893, and has exceeded the figures of any intervening February.

In spite of the falling-off in the number of children on the books at inspection and in average attendance, it will be noticed that the regularity of attendance has slightly improved.

The number of first-class schools, notwithstanding the requirements of the New Education Code, has increased by 14, while the number of second and third-class schools has considerably decreased.

The total number of schools on the list has decreased by 8.

The annual examination of teachers and Training College students, held in December 1896, resulted in the passing of 4 teachers out of the 11 who went up for examination, and of 147 students out of 186 who presented themselves, viz. :—

	Presented.	Passed.
1st Year	91	77
2nd Year	54	41
3rd Year	41	29.

There was a large increase in the number of candidates who presented themselves, owing mainly to the increase in the number of students at the Mico.

The beneficial effect of the addition to the teaching staff of elementary schools and competent teachers from the various training colleges is increasingly manifest.

The examination of pupil teachers and volunteers was held on the 11th December 1896, with the result that 693 passed out of the 1688 who presented themselves, or 41 per cent.

Training College for Girls at Shortwood.

On the 1st April 1896 there were 30 students, who all remained throughout the year. They were all presented for examination in December ; one passed in honours, four in the first class, seven in the second class, and eight in the third class.

Seven students passed out of the college at the conclusion of their three years' course. On the whole the report on this college is satisfactory.

JAMAICA. 1896-7.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

Hope Industrial School.

There were 27 boys in this institution on the 1st April 1896, and at the end of the year there were 29. The average rate of increase in the number of boys for the past six years has been two.

The older boys were employed in work at the Hope Gardens, and the younger in keeping the buildings and grounds in order.

The boys have regularly attended the practical lectures in agriculture given by the Superintendent of the Hope Gardens. Lessons were also given them in the cultivation of grapes, coffee, cocoa, pine apples, oranges, &c.

The Elementary School was examined in August 1896, and took 56 marks. This is an increase of 6 marks on the previous year. Full marks were obtained in elementary science (including practical teaching in agriculture).

Belmont Orphanage.

There were 12 children in this institution both at the commencement and at the end of the year.

They attended school throughout the year at St. Jude's School, and were well spoken of at the examination of that school.

Alpha Cottage.

This is an institution for both boys and girls and is under the control of the Roman Catholic Church.

At the commencement of the year there were 49 boys and 44 girls, and at the end 51 boys and 40 girls.

The boys are chiefly employed in gardening and in field labour, and the girls in laundry and domestic work, and in gardening.

Both boys' and girls' schools retain their position as first-class schools, with 64 and 68 marks respectively.

Shortwood Industrial School.

There were 36 girls in this institution at the commencement of the year, one of whom was out on license, and 35 at the end of the year; of these 18 were under 12 years of age. There were also at the end of the year two apprentices in the school.

The employment of the girls consisted of mending, washing, and making of clothes, baking, and house work.

REFORMATORIES.

Boys' Reformatory.

On the 31st March 1897, there were 213 boys in the Reformatory at Stony Hill, as compared with 207 on the corresponding date in the preceding year. Of these 124 belonged to the Reformatory and 89 to the Industrial School section. The daily average number of boys in 1895 was 199, in 1896—203, and in 1897—204.

Of 142 boys discharged during these years, so far as is known, 8, or 15·63 per cent., have been re-convicted and sent to prison during the year 1896-97.

There were three boys out on license at the commencement of the year and two at the end of the year.

The following are the more important statistics of the institution for the year.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Gross expenditure				3,857	18	3¼
Less earnings by labour and sale of articles.	318	13	11			
Less reimbursement from parishes for industrial school children.	1,211	2	0	1,529	15	11
Net cost				2,328	2	4¼
Gross cost per head per diem				0	1	0·43
Net „ „ „				0	0	6·49
Gross cost of superintendence per head per diem				0	0	5·10
Gross cost of diet per head per diem ...				0	0	3·16
Work done for customers and produce sold...				395	13	9½
Work bringing no money return				1,119	19	6
Rewards paid				31	6	0

Marks awarded school, making it a first-class Elementary School under the code, 61.

The boys have continued to be employed as carpenters, tailors, blacksmiths, masons, bricklayers, cooks, gardeners, and field labourers under trained superintendence. On discharge they are provided with an outfit for pursuing the trades which they have been taught.

The health of the inmates was generally satisfactory; the one death during the year was the result of an accident.

Girls' Reformatory.

On the 31st March 1897, there were 26 girls in the Reformatory at Admirals Pen, as compared with 22 at the commencement of the year. The daily average number was 24 against 23 in 1895-96. The gross cost of each child was 1*s.* 7*d.* per diem, in

JAMAICA. 1896–7.

1895-96 it was 1*s.* 8*d.*; the daily cost of superintendence was 8*d.* and of diet 3¾*d.* The cost of maintaining the institution was £690 0*s.* 2*d.*, but after deducting reimbursements from parishes for industrial school children and the value of work done by the girls, the actual cost of the institution was £513 0*s.* 1*d.*

The girls were employed as usual in making, mending, washing and ironing their own clothes, and in making up under-clothes for the boys at the Stony Hill Reformatory, washing clothes for private persons, and in cooking and cleaning.

The health of the institution has been good.

The buildings are stated to be in fair order.

IMMIGRATION.

No immigrants were introduced during the year, and none were sent back to India. The immigrants who arrived in 1891 completed their term of indenture during the year.

The births during that period were 374, and the deaths 246, shewing a net increase of 128, equal to 60 per 1000. The death rate for the whole period was 98·2 per 1000, averaging 19·6 per 1000 annually. When these coolies were allotted the proportion of the sexes was 1 female to 2·09 males ; at the expiration of five years it was 1 female to 1·86 males. The proportion of the sexes amongst the East Indian population of the Island when the census was taken in 1891 was 1 female to 1·41 males. There seems to be a constant natural tendency towards the equalisation of the sexes.

The birth rate amongst coolies now under indenture was unusually small, being only 1·19 per cent., as against 3·40 per cent. for 1895. The death rate was 2·27 per cent., as against 2·34 in 1895.

Most of the deaths occurred amongst the allotments *ex* "Arno," 1895, the rate for this ship being 3·29 per cent., as compared with 1·52 per cent. amongst the other immigrants.

There has been a serious depression in many of the principal industries of the Island, but the only one which materially affects the immigrants is sugar planting. Fortunately the depression has been gradual, and has allowed time for a great many immigrants to find other means of earning their living ; a number of them are now employed on fruit-growing properties. There are now only ten sugar estates which have indentured immigrants ; but there are still many time-expired coolies employed on sugar estates.

The immigrants *ex* "Erne," "Moy," and "Belgravia" are the first to come within the terms of Section 13 of Law 20 of 1891, which was enacted in order to ensure the employers of immigrants who have completed their indentured service paying some portion of the cost of immigration. Only one employer refused to re-employ the coolies, and the bulk of the people remained on the estates where they had served their indenture.

There were 74 remittances to India, amounting to £246 ; 182 letters were dispatched to India through the Immigration Office, and 225 were received from India.

The number of depositors in the Government Savings Bank decreased from 1,029 in 1894-95 to 933 in 1895-96, and the amounts from £22,680 1*s.* 11*d.* to £21,628 17*s.* 1*d.*, being, however, in excess of the deposits of 1893-94 by £7,670 6*s.* 3*d.*

There were no murders, suicides, or cases of very serious crime during 1896. There were only three new prisoners undergoing penal servitude, and the number of coolies in the General Penitentiary has been reduced from 21 to 13. There were, however, 14 coolies undergoing imprisonment in the short-term prisons for wounding, one for assault and one for prædial larceny.

At the close of the year there were 54 East Indians in the Lunatic Asylum.

The year has been an uneventful one. The condition of the general East Indian population continues to be prosperous, and the relations between the labourers and their employers have been of the best.

Emigration.

During the year, 734 labourers left the Island for the Isthmus of Panama and for Carthagena, and 848 returned therefrom.

Government Savings Bank.

The number of depositors and the amount of deposits in the Bank have been as follows in the last ten years :—

Year.	No. of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits.
		£
1886-87	17,047	363,481
1887-88	18,510	393,250
1888-89	19,444	408,213
1890-91	21,747	423,011
1891-92	22,824	428,348
1892-93	23,902	417,978
1893-94	25,533	457,924
1894-95	27,045	453,875
1895-96	28,385	464,737
1896-97	29,719	469,226

JAMAICA. 1896–7.

The year under review shews an increase of 1,334 in the number of depositors, and an increase of £4,489 in the amount of deposits, as compared with 1895-96.

In the above amount of deposits are included 173 deposit accounts for the following Public Funds :—

		£	s.	d.
1	Constabulary Reward Fund ...	78	11	5
1	Do. Pension Fund ...	2	6	0
13	Sinking Funds	4,766	4	4
1	Smith and Beckford's Charity ...	73	9	11
2	Turks Island	1,612	16	2
5	Other Government Accounts ...	2,498	1	4
150	Chancery Fund Accounts ...	18,877	1	0

There were also 211 accounts for Trusts, Charities, Chancery, Adminstrator General and Bankrupt Estates, amounting to a total deposit of £19,103 9*s.* 3*d.* The remaining 29,335 accounts, representing £422,166 2*s.* 4¾*d.* are all ordinary Savings Bank deposits, old Savings Bank balances £1,632 13*s.* 10*d.*, Surplus Fund £9 16*s.* 0*d.*, making a total of £470,820 16*s.* 7¾*d.*

Of the total number of accounts open at the end of the year, 21,402 were for £5 and under, while only 1,216 were for over £100 ; the increase in the number of small amounts of £5 and under being 1,473.

The Assets of the Bank on the 31st March last, were distributed as follows :—

			£	s.	d.
Consols 2¾ per cent.			20,404	17	3
Inscribed Stock :—					
Canada	3 per cent.		27,908	0	8
Cape of Good Hope	4 „		47,766	6	8
Ceylon	4 „		24,881	5	2
New South Wales	3½ „		40,528	13	7
Victoria	4 „		32,043	1	0
Jamaica	4 „		9,900	0	0
Queensland	3½ „		14,963	18	1
New Zealand	3½ „		15,011	9	5
			£213,002	4	7
Debentures :—		£ s. d.			
Canada	4 „ ...	53,990 12 6			
New South Wales	5 & 4 „ ...	60,997 10 0			
South Australia	4 & 6 „ ...	52,431 2 6			
Victoria	4 & 4½ „ ...	47,308 12 6			
Jamaica	5 „ ...	3,800 0 0			
			218,527	17	6
			451,934	19	4¾
Cash in Colonial Bank			18,914	19	5
„ hands of clerk at Port Royal			19	11	0
			£470,869	9	9¾

The accounts opened numbered 3,970, and those closed 2,819, the result being an increase of 1,334 in the number at the end of the year, as compared with the number at the end of the preceding year.

The number of deposits amounted to 30,697, and withdrawals to 36,583, representing £227,562 3*s.* 4*d.* and £234,462 5*s.* 5¼*d.* respectively.

The expenses of management and the interest credited to depositors amounted to £16,358 19*s.* 5½*d.*, while the revenue realised was £17,011 0*s.* 2*d.*, thus shewing a net profit of £652 0*s.* 8½*d.* on the year's transactions.

The revenue compared with the preceding year shews an increase of £294 19*s.* 1*d.*

TRADE.

The two first causes of the depression under the head of Agriculture, viz., the long severe drought, and the decline of prices of the Island's products, were probably the main factors in the serious fall in the values both of exports and imports in 1896–97, compared with the preceding year. Exports fell from £1,873,105 to £1,470,241 or by £402,864 in amount, and 21·51 in percentage, and imports from £2,288,946 to £1,856,377 or by £432,569 in amount, and 18·9 in percentage. If entries of imports for home consumption are taken, the figures are respectively £2,255,637 and £1,864,612, a decrease by £391,025 in amount, and 17·33 in percentage. A considerable proportion of this decrease, however, is due to the cessation of work on the railway extensions, importations under the Railway Law 12 of 1889 having fallen from £145,981 to £11,491, or by £133,490. These figures are almost entirely the value of manufactured articles, £139,596 in 1895–96, and £11,453 in 1896–97. If railway importations be omitted, it will be seen that the imports for general use have not declined in nearly the same degree as have the exports.

The following table shows the exports and imports for ten years :—

Year.	Exports.				Imports.			
	Home Products and Manufactures.	British and Foreign Products and Manufactures.	Coin and Bullion.	Total Exports.	Home Consumption.	Coin and Bullion.	Total for Home and Specie.	Total Imports.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
(*a*) 1886-87.	1,334,469	19,350	155,191	1,509,010	1,294,320	57,074	1,351,394	1,322,336
(*a*) 1887-88.	1,661,601	17,668	149,321	1,828,590	1,586,129	145,986	1,732,115	1,695,607
(*a*) 1888-89.	1,501,660	15,942	97,222	1,614,824	1,501,905	61,017	1,562,922	1,597,600
Half-year 1890.	883,965	8,094	40,483	932,546	899,901	30,415	929,416	938,153
(*b*) 1890-91.	1,807,084	15,290	80,440	1,902,814	2,089,836	63,343	2,153,180	2,190,746
1891-92.	1,628,777	32,109	61,210	1,722,096	1,756,150	6,849	1,762,999	1,759,890
1892-93.	1,690,637	18,944	50,226	1,759,807	1,917,278	11,279	1,928,557	1,941,482
1893-94.	1,982,596	17,342	75,751	2,075,689	2,035,037	41,076	2,136,113	2,157,795
1894-95.	1,848,877	14,700	57,844	1,921,422	2,162,188	28,525	2,190,712	2,191,745
1895-96.	1,775,016	9,553	88,537	1,873,105	2,237,787	17,850	2,255,637	2,288,946
1896-97.	1,384,278	16,411	69,552	1,470,241	1,836,849	27,763	1,864,612	1,856,378
(*c*) Average of Ten Years. £	1,661,499·5	17,730·9	88,529·4	1,767,759·8	1,847,747·9	46,076·2	1,893,824·1	1,903,252·5

(*a*) Year commenced 1st October. (*b*) Year has commenced on 1st April since 1890. (*c*) Excluding half-year ended 31st March 1890.

Comparing exports of home products with imports for home consumption, and excluding from exports re-shipments of British and foreign goods, which only exceeded £20,000 a year in the year after the Exhibition, when unsold goods were taken back, and specie from both heads, it will be seen that there has been a remarkable increase in imports since 1890-91, the year of the Exhibition.

This may be accounted for by the large number of people withdrawn from cultivation during the construction of the railway and important public works, and the importation of materials used in each.

Exports.

The following table shows the quantities of the principal staples of the Colony exported during the past ten years :—

——	1886–87	1887–88	1888–89	1890–91	1891–92	1892–93	1893–94	1894–95	1895–96	1896–97
Sugar ... ... cwts.	460,887	490,480	323,238	377,901	425,793	371,821	410,537	398,683	390,918	321,468
Rum ... ... galls.	2,412,596	1,868,490	1,374,931	1,593,584	1,704,919	1,698,272	1,461,220	1,956,291	1,881,146	1,642,819
Coffee ... ... cwts.	56,587	98,966	84,606	75,680	86,926	97,304	88,293	95,129	84,392	66,614
Dyewoods— Logwood and Fustic. tons	63,114	103,364	116,247	110,994	87,352	99,083	99,068	78,172	85,575	45,863
Pimento ... cwts.	65,497	66,560	46,180	90,363	63,730	69,747	87,756	83,956	97,347	99,551
Ginger ... ... „	9,927	10,222	8,952	10,886	16,273	13,632	14,932	15,504	17,505	11,014
Fruit, value ... £	215,583	337,403	303,910	531,726	288,159	375,860	527,474	515,412	493,722	468,808

The values do not correspond very closely with these figures. During most of the years in question, the average price of sugar was 12*s.* to 13*s.* per cwt., in 1896 it was 10*s.*, in 1895 about 9*s.* 3*d.* The price of rum was 2*s.* 6*d.* per gallon in 1886-87, gradually lessening to 2*s.* 1*d.* in 1895. In 1895-96 it was 1*s.* 9*d.*, and in 1896-97 only 1*s.* 4*d.* per gallon. Coffee sold at an average of say 70*s.* per cwt. from 1886-87 to 1891-92, for the next three years at 74*s.*; in 1895-96 at 67*s.* 6*d.*, in 1896-97 at only 63*s.* 4*d.* Taking logwood to represent dyewoods, the rest being very small in comparison, we find the price fairly steady at from £3 5*s.* to £3 12*s.* 6*d.* per ton till 1893-94, when it rose to £5 per ton continuing high until 1896-97, when it dropped to £3 15*s.* Pimento has kept a fair average value of say 18*s.* per cwt., but in 1896-97 the price was only 15*s.* 6*d.* Ginger only 36*s.* per cwt., in 1886-87, has increased in value, and was 60*s.* per cwt. in 1896-97, the decreased quantity being probably due to drought. The quantity of fruit exported has increased within the last two years, but the value has decreased. Bananas which had been at about 1*s.* 9*d.* a bunch average fetched only about 1*s.* 6*d.* a bunch in 1895-96 and 1*s.* 3*d.* in 1896-97, and oranges, which had sold at about 700 for 20*s.*, rose in quantity in 1895-96 to about three and half times the number of the preceding year with a better price, but this dropped in 1896-97 to almost the average of former years, and although the quantity was greater, the total value was less. The increase in oranges for the two years could not, however, quite make up for the decrease in bananas.

The several staples of export and minor products bore the following proportions to the total exports in each of the years named :—

	1896–97.	1895–96.	1894–95.
Sugar	10·1	11·0	12·9
Rum	8·4	9·3	10·1
Coffee	14·4	16·0	19·3
Dyewoods	11·6	20·4	19·0
Fruit	34·3	29·9	27·9
Pimento	5·2	5·1	4·5
Minor Products	16·1	8·3	6·3

These figures show a gradual decline proportionally in the larger exports except fruit, and also that exporters endeavoured in the past year to make up for this decrease by attention to minor products.

JAMAICA. 1896–7.

The following are the figures for the two years of total exports :—

——	1896–97.	1895–96.	Increase.	Decrease.
I. Live Animals, Food, Drink, and Narcotics.	1,146,687	1,359,628	—	212,941
II. Raw Materials	215,757	390,825	—	175,068
III. Manufactured Articles	38,245	37,116	1,129	—
IV Coin and Bullion ...	69,552	85,536	—	15,984
Total	1,470,241	1,873,105	1,129	403,993
Net Decrease ...	—	—	—	402,864

The chief decreases in quantity and values have occurred in the following products :—

——	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity decrease.	Value decrease.	Percentage decrease quantity.	Percentage decrease value.
	Cwt.	£	Cwt.	£		
I. Sugar ...	321,468	148,679	69,450	46,780	17·8	23·9
	Gallons.		Gallons.			
Rum	1,642,819	123,211	228,327	41,389	12·7	25·2
	Cwt.		Cwt.			
Coffee ...	66,614	210,946	17,717	73,876	21·1	25·9
	Cwt.		Cwt.			
Ginger ...	11,014	33,041	6,492	17,286	37·1	34·4
	Tons.		Tons.			
II. Logwood ...	48,084	161,565	41,393	197,464	49·0	55·0

While there have been increases in quantity and decreases in value in the following :—

——	Quantities.	Value.	Quantity increase.	Value decrease.	Percentage increase quantity.	Percentage decrease value.
	Bunches.	£	Bunches.	£		
Bananas ...	4,838,645	302,415	617,849	14,144	14·6	4·5
	Number.		Number.			
Oranges ...	103,702,775	155,554	6,617,377	14,240	6·9	8·4
	Cwt.		Cwt.			
Pimento ...	99,551	77,152	2,205	12,893	2·3	14·3
	Number.		Number.			
Coconuts ...	11,802,224	35,407	2,358,772	2,367	25·0	6·3

The above comprise all the chief exports, and show in all cases, except ginger, a lowering of price, in most exceeding 20 per cent. The decrease on logwood is remarkable, the price per ton, though much lower than that of the three previous years, being above that realised in the six years preceding those three. The Collector-General explains, however, that large quantities of very superior foreign woods competed.

The total decrease in value on these nine exports is £420,439, on all exports £402,864, thus showing increases in minor products. Grape fruit, which has only become an export of any consequence within the two years under comparison, increased in value from £5,832 to £9,024, or by £3,192; lancewood spars increased by £9,339 in value, fustic by £5,043.

Dye extracts, the only export under head III. realising a considerable value, showed a slight decrease last year. The value for the three years of its manufacture has been—1894-95, £3,126; 1895-96, £27,965; 1896-97, £27,525.

The countries named below took the Island's exports in the proportion set opposite their names during the past three years :—

——	1896–97.	1895–96.	1894–95.
United Kingdom	27·4	27·6	27·1
United States	56·6	57·0	58·1
Dominion of Canada	1·2	1·6	1·5
Other Countries	14·8	13·8	13·3

Turning now to imports, we find also a general decrease, though, as shown in paragraph 1 of this head, not so large proportionately as that on exports :—

——	1896–97.	1895–96.	Increase 1896–97.	Decrease 1896–97.
	£	£	£	£
I. Food, Drink, and Narcotics	759,419	896,276	—	136,857
II. Raw Materials ...	49,778	64,907	—	15,129
III. Manufactured Articles	1,027,008	1,276,604	—	249,596
IV. Coin and Bullion ...	28,407	17,850	10,557	—
Total	1,864,612	2,255,637	10,557	401,582
				10,557
Net Decrease ...	—	—	—	391,025

The falling-off under I. amounts to about 15 per cent., and occurs on almost every article; that under II. to 23 per cent., and under III. to 20 per cent., occurring on the most important articles. More than half the decrease under III. is due to the completion of the railway extensions.

The decreases on imports, of a total value of over £50,000, are as follows :—

—	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity decrease.	Value decrease.	Percentage decrease quantity.	Percentage decrease value.
	Gallons.	£	Gallons.	£		
Alcoholic liquors	302,689	67,078	93,277	29,989	23·6	30·9
	Lbs.		Lbs.			
Fish, dried or salted.	14,238,981	121,121	373,333	9,590	2·2	10·0
	Barrels.		Barrels.			
Flour, wheat ...	167,919	155,326	31,553	24,199	15·7	13·4
Apparel and slops	—	67,561	—	8,216	—	11·0
Boots and shoes, Leather	—	57,585	—	1,380	—	2·4
Cottons (including Hosiery).	—	249,160	—	50,454	—	16·8
	Feet.		Feet.			
Wood (Lumber)	13,214,291	55,871	419,650	7,186	3·1	11·4

Other large imports showing considerable percentage decreases in value are :—Imports valued at from £40,000 to £50,000—Beef and pork, wet salted, 16·1; coals and coke, 18·1; haberdashery and millinery, 24·0; woollens, 18·1; £30,000 to £40,000—Corn, 17·6; hardware and cutlery, 15·9; £20,000 to £30,000—Bread or biscuit, 19·3; butter, butterine, &c., 32·3; rice, 47·3; oil, 11·2; soap, 30·4. Of these, beef and pork and corn showed increased quantity but decreased value, and in most cases the percentage decrease on value has been greater than that on quantity. Only one article of importance shows the opposite tendency, viz., fish, pickled or smoked, value £41,785, an increase in cost on last year of 3·6 per cent., with a decrease in quantity of ·7. Of articles of less total cost, there were striking decreases on bacon, candles, gunpowder, matches, salt, refined sugar, tea, and tongues.

Of the several decreases mentioned, those on coal and coke and gunpowder were probably due in great measure to the completion of the railway extensions and other public undertakings; also the remarkable decrease on rice, which is often substituted to a great extent for ground provisions in feeding gangs of labourers. The decrease on matches (£800 to £92)

arises from the locally manufactured ousting the imported article; six to seven years ago the cost was placed at £2,500 or thereabouts. The decrease on soap is chiefly due to the same cause; that on refined sugar has been observed since the duty of 1*d.* per pound was imposed.

Increases both in quantity and value on peas and beans are due probably to the severe drought in many districts causing local supplies to fail. More satisfactory increases are those of shooks, 1,124,531 in number and £3,767 in value; agricultural engines, £7,978; other steam engines, £4,423.

The imports for the past three years were drawn from the several countries in the following proportions :—

	1896–97.	1895–96.	1894–95.
United Kingdom	49·9	48·1	50·4
United States	39·4	41·8	36·8
Dominion of Canada	8·2	7·5	8·5
Other Countries	2·5	2·6	4·3

A tendency of late years to an increasing importation from the States and a decreasing importation from the United Kingdom was reversed in 1896-97. Speaking generally, foodstuffs come from the United States and Canada, and drinks and manufactures from the United Kingdom. Of late years, manufactured articles for the railway extension, the contractors for which were Americans, have been imported from the United States. These extensions have now been completed, and importations from the States have lessened.

POLICE.

The allowed strength of the Constabulary Force on the 31st March 1897 was 852, the actual strength 849, an increase by 72 over the allowed and actual strength, 777 for 1895-96. The allowed increase of 75 for the year is referred to in the last paragraph of my Report on Police for that year. It is of course too soon yet to determine with any accuracy what deterring influence this increase may have on crime.

The number 849 is made up of 18 officers, 134 sub-officers (2 of whom were previously in the Royal Irish Constabulary) and 697 ordinary constables. I am glad to say that the sub-officers from the Irish Constabulary have proved themselves to be a valuable addition to the force in instructing other sub-officers and the men, at their stations, in police work generally.

JAMAICA. 1896–7.

In addition to these 849 members of the regular force, there are 193 rural headmen of police and 744 rural policemen, together 937, against 963 last year.

The effective police force of the Colony was thus 1,786 for 1896-97 ; in 1895-96 it was 1,740.

The rural police, it is reported, continue to be of great aid to the Constabulary. There are, however, several men who prove inefficient and have to be discharged ; the number removed for misconduct and other causes during the year was 84, while 83 appointments were made. Of the Constabulary only 16 men were dismissed during the year and the same number in 1895-96, indicating apparently better general efficiency in regular and disciplined force. There were 154 enlistments in the Constabulary, 52 men discharged (18 of them with pensions and gratuities) and 12 deaths.

The Inspector-General reports that the officers and men have worked efficiently and well, and that on the whole the sub-officers and men have performed their arduous and at times unpleasant duties satisfactorily and with cheerfulness.

The following table shows the principal duties, outside of patrolling and attendance at Courts, performed by the Constabulary during the past 5 years, viz. :—

	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.
Number of persons arrested on view and on information.	6,923	8,237	7,781	8,775	8,351
Number of persons apprehended on warrants.	1,802				1,780
Number of search warrants executed.	102	122	150	151	142
Number of persons summoned.	18,896	19,212	19,249	20,279	19,537
Number of persons subpœnaed.	28,766	29,808	30,673	31,058	27,161
Number of prisoners escorted.	10,570	8,599	8,224	9,911	11,542
Number of seizures under Revenue Laws.	440	399	437	649	309
Number of post-mortems ordered.	432	594	603	610	641

It will be observed from the table that the number of arrests and apprehensions, together 10,131, and of prisoners escorted show a decided increase in 1896-97 over the four preceding years, while subpœnas are correspondingly less, and summonses show a decrease on 1895-96. Revenue seizures are less than in many of the preceding years.

The following are statistics of Crime for the five years in question :—

Offences.	Apprehensions.					Convictions.				
	1892–93.	1893–94.	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.	1892–93.	1893–94.	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.
I.—Offences against the Person	6,827	7,232	7,302	7,040	6,653	3,086	3,375	3,218	3,309	3,140
II.—Offences against Property, committed with violence.	306	251	326	429	394	193	162	184	245	264
III.—Offences against Property, committed without violence.	4,416	4,071	4,079	5,004	5,700	2,443	2,154	1,914	2,586	3,021
IV.—Malicious offences against Property...	194	179	182	137	169	65	43	53	57	43
V.—Forgery and offences against the Currency.	27	27	39	48	25	15	13	14	29	9
VI.—Other Offences...	15,830	16,281	15,513	16,477	16,201	10,093	10,741	9,569	10,473	10,188
Totals	27,600	28,041	27,441	29,135	29,143	15,895	16,488	14,952	16,699	16,665
I.—Murder, including Infanticide ...	8	13	10	12	16	2	5	3	5	1
Manslaughter	16	10	3	20	17	7	1	1	16	5
Cutting and Wounding	652	684	694	847	835	383	439	269	302	449
Common Assault	5,452	5.753	5,760	5,326	4,928	2,276	2,479	2,465	2,547	2,238
II.—Burglary and Housebreaking ...	287	227	277	417	375	185	156	166	239	253
III.—Simple Larceny	1,612	1,650	1,773	2,017	2,264	810	852	748	914	1,073
Prædial Larceny	1,357	1,168	1,019	1,560	2,171	821	617	512	889	1,277
IV.—Arson	49	32	29	18	29	16	5	6	1	3
V.—Disorderly conduct	3,971	4,063	4,047	4,728	5,097	2,849	3,098	2,978	3,474	3,658
Obscene and abusive language ...	3,798	4,247	4,367	3,805	3,585	2,082	2,452	2,379	2,058	2,035
Trespass	1,062	825	940	941	973	542	436	449	467	482

JAMAICA, 1896–7.

The above figures indicate a general increase in cases of crime, for the four years, except in 1894-95. Taking the increase of population from 1892-93 as estimated by the Registrar-General, viz., roughly from 650,000 to 706,000, or say by one-twelfth, and of crime at from 27,600 to 29,142 cases, an increase by one-eighteenth, there has been a decrease in the proportion of crime to population.

The salient feature of 1896-97 compared with the preceding year is the decrease under "Offences against the person" and "Other Offences," which may be classed together as "Offences of violence and disorder," and the corresponding increase in number and more considerable increase in percentage of offences against property committed without violence, especially under "Prædial Larceny." The increase under this head doubtless arises from the depression and scarcity of crops during the period. A similar increase in the offence has been noticed at previous times of depression and scarcity, when not only are there more people in want, who plunder their richer neighbours, but when slight thefts, which would be condoned at other times, are brought before the Courts. The Inspector-General reports that the value of the articles stolen was in almost every instance insignificant, and brings to notice that cases chiefly occurred in the first half of the year, and that when the provisions of the Prædial Larceny Law of 1896 (since disallowed) began to have full effect, the number of cases considerably diminished ; it should be stated, however, that the drought was most severe during the earlier part of the year.

Turning now to crimes against the person; of 16 persons charged with murder only one was convicted of the crime, and executed; another case was reduced to manslaughter; 11 were discharged by the magistrates or acquitted, and three cases remained undisposed of at the end of the year.

There is a considerable increase in convictions, viz., from 302 to 449, for cutting and wounding. This is due, however, to the fact that the departmental reports show in 1894-95, 154 cases, and in 1895-96, 234 cases reduced to common assault, while in 1896-97 there were only 18 so reduced. The fact of such large reductions to a minor offence appears to indicate that a large proportion of the offences classed under this head are not of a very serious nature. This offence rapidly increased on the cessation of work on the Panama Canal in 1887-88, and the repatriation of several thousands of able-bodied men, who had acquired the habit of using the knife on the Isthmus, when excited by drink, jealousy, &c.

Prisons.

The daily average number of prisoners in custody during each of the past five years and the number on the last day of each year were respectively as follows :—

Year.	Daily average number in custody.	Number on 31st March
1892-93	1,004	964
1893-94	1,008	943
1894-95	916	957
1895-96	1,008	1,094
1896-97	1,159	1,149

The more important statistics relating to this department are as follows :—

	Year ended 31st March.	
	1897.	1896.
Commitments—		
To Prison	4,748	4,289
To Lock-ups	930	818
Total	5,678	5,107
Reconvictions	1,976	1,717
Deaths—		
General Penitentiary ...	12	10
Other Prisons	23	12
Total	35	22
Executions	1	5

	Year ended 31st March.					
	1897.			1896.		
FINANCIAL.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Gross expenditure	21,285	11	2¾	19,292	4	10
Gross earnings in cash	4,796	15	4¾	5,606	11	0
Net cost of maintaining prisons ...	16,488	15	10	13,685	13	10
Cost per prisoner	14	4	6¼	13	11	6½
Estimated value of labour yielding no return.	8,550	9	4	5,658	2	0
Estimated value of bricklaying work and stone quarried (General Penitentiary).	3,789	2	2	4,294	16	1½
Washing and repairing (General Penitentiary).	1,151	19	5	1,086	11	1

The number of deaths per 1,000 reckoned on the basis of the average daily number of prisoners in custody was 20·37 in the General Penitentiary compared with 18·48 last year, and in the other prisons 40·2 compared with 25·7. The average percentage of deaths at the General Penitentiary for the three years preceding the one under review was 25·13, while that at the other prisons was 41·47.

The greatest number of sick prisoners in the General Penitentiary during 1896-97 who were treated in the hospital on any one day was 21, and of prisoners treated outside the hospital 39. The average percentages were 8·6 and 28·4, respectively.

School has been held regularly at the General Penitentiary, the St. Catherine's District Prison and Falmouth District Prison, and religious services have also been regularly conducted at each prison. The discipline in these institutions has been maintained, and the mark system at the General Penitentiary is reported to continue to work satisfactorily. All the buildings have been maintained and are in good condition. The boundary walls for the extension of the St. Catherine's District Prison were in course of construction at the close of the year.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The total population of the Island on the 31st March last was estimated at 706,394, the net increase during the year being

11,529 or an increase at the rate of 16·6 per 1,000 living, as against an increase at the rate of 16·3 per thousand in the previous year.

The mean population for the year 1896-97 is estimated as 701,181, and the rates for the year are calculated on that basis.

The average annual increase of population for the last 6 years has therefore been 11,000.

The number of marriages during the year was 3,026, equal to a rate of 4·3 per 1,000 as compared with 3,242 or a rate of 4·6 in the previous year. There has thus been a falling-off of 216 marriages in the year under review. In fact, there has been a considerable decrease in the number of marriages year by year since 1893-94.

Of the 6,052 persons married, 47·83 per cent. signed the marriage register by making their marks, more brides than bridegrooms being able to sign their names, shewing that while the females have advanced in writing skill the males have slightly retrograded.

The number of births during the year was 27,064, or a rate of 38·5 per 1,000. There was an excess of 222 births over those of the previous year, but allowing for increase of population, the birth rate shows a slight fall from 38·8 to 38·5. Of these births 16,563 were illegitimate, or a rate of 61·1 per 100 as against a rate of 60·8 per 100.

The deaths registered during the year numbered 15,535, or a rate of 22·1 per 1,000 mean population, being a slight reduction on the mortality of the previous year.

Of the total number of deaths, 4,757, or 30·6 per cent., were those of children under one year and 7,266, or 46·7 per cent., of children under five years, or in other words 17·5 per 100 of children born died under one year and 26·8 per 100 under five years. The heaviest mortality was amongst children of illegitimate birth. The infant mortality in Kingston was exceptionally heavy, nearly one-fourth of the children born dying before one year, and one-third before reaching five years.

Of the 15,716 deaths registered in the year, 11,678 or 75·1 per cent. were registered without medical certificate as to the cause of death.

DEPENDENCIES OF JAMAICA.

Cayman Islands.

The total births at Grand Cayman numbered 173, being at the rate of 46·4 per 1,000 of population, of which 16, or 9·2 per cent., were illegitimate. The deaths were 40, or an annual rate of 10·7 per 1,000 of the population.

Cayman Brac and Little Cayman.

The births were 25, 4 being illegitimate. The deaths were 7. The marriages in Grand Cayman were 17, or an annual rate of 4·5 per 1,000, and in Cayman Brac and Little Cayman 3.

GENERAL.

I have entered so fully into the details of the various departmental reports that but little remains to be said. The completion of great public works that had been in progress for four years, coupled with a serious fall in the price of almost all our staple commodities, added to a drought more severe than has been experienced for many years, has produced a state of depression; but writing, as I do, eight months after the close of the period under review, I observe signs of revival. The thousands of labourers no longer employed on the railway extension works have returned to the cultivation of the soil, and I have never seen the country looking better. There is, therefore, no fear of distress among the people, who are, in the main, as comfortably circumstanced as any peasantry in the world. There is, however, grave fear that the destructive effects of subsidised competition are slowly crushing the life out of the sugar industry, as represented by the estates of average size, and with the disappearance of the sugar estates, cattle breeding will cease to pay except some other outlet be found. The substitution of a fruit industry is at best the substitution of a perishable for a non-perishable product, and the tendency to look to fruit alone as a source of future prosperity is not without its dangers. Were the competition in sugar reduced to the sound basis of the natural cost of production, Jamaica, with her multiple resources, representing, as she does, one half the area and population of the British West Indies, would soon be restored to a prosperity as great as she has ever known, where invested capital would secure a generous return and honest labour receive its just reward.

As this is the last time that I shall have the opportunity of reporting upon the condition and prospects of this Colony, I may be permitted to travel a little outside the period dealt with in the Blue Book for 1897, and to compare in a few particulars the condition of the Colony at the beginning and the close of my administration which has covered a period of nearly nine years.

In March 1889 when I arrived in Jamaica, there were 790 miles of main roads under the management of the Public Works Department, all of which were in excellent condition; there were 2,300 miles of parochial roads for wheeled traffic managed by the Parochial Boards, of the condition of which loud complaints were made, and about 900 miles of bridle paths. In Kingston there were two or three small boarding houses; outside Kingston the accommodation for travellers was nil; visitors to Jamaica who had introductions were passed on from

house to house with unwearying hospitality, and some absentee proprietors made special allowances to their overseers for the entertainment of such visitors. The rivers that flow to the sea from the Port Royal and Blake Mountains were unbridged, and as they are liable to sudden and dangerous floods the traveller sometimes found himself imprisoned for days between two impassable rivers, while every year had its death roll from fatal accidents in attempting the passage of the flooded fords. With such conditions it was evident that the Island could not hope to share in the benefits to be derived from the examination by large numbers of tourist travellers of its exquisite beauties, its salubrious climate, and its productive capacities. On one occasion 40 people arrived in Kingston on a tourist trip, they spent the day in driving about Kingston in the vain endeavour to obtain a night's accommodation, but had to return to the ship and leave the Island because it was not to be had. Nor could the expanding fruit trade be carried on with regularity or profit when, for want of good roads, bananas were carried from the interior on mens' heads or mule back, and when nearer the sea the carts laden with perishable fruit were stopped by floods, while the ships must either be detained or leave the fruit behind to rot upon the wharf.

In 1890 it was determined to hold an Exhibition, which was opened for three months and was an unqualified success. For reasons which need not here be stated, strenuous exertion was made by certain persons to prevent the black people from attending the exhibition and thus diverting money that would presumably otherwise be used at home; they were told that the Exhibition was a snare to entrap them and make them slaves once more, and they believed it. For six weeks not a score of black people visited the Exhibition. Nor was the spell broken until I had brought up all the school teachers and the rural headmen of the police, shown them the Exhibition and sent them home safe. Then the black people flocked to Kingston, and during the next six weeks the Exhibition was visited by half the population. The deficit only amounted to £29,000 of which £21,000 was paid by the guarantors.

It was evident that to build an Exhibition and invite the world to visit it would be useless extravagance if we were not to supply hotel accommodation for the reception of visitors. One hotel had been projected by a company, but there were no funds to complete it. The Legislative Council passed a Law guaranteeing 3 per cent. on the money necessary to build hotels on the condition that they should be built in time for the Exhibition; under that Law £48,000 was raised by five companies, and five hotels built in different parts of the Island. The sum expended so far for the interest on the Debentures over the interest received, paid by the hotels, has been compensated for by the hundreds of tourists who have since 1891 annually visited the Island, and have spent large sums therein.

JAMAICA. 1896–7.

In 1892 a Law was passed under which a number of the parochial roads were taken over by the Public Works Department, and another Law was passed authorising a loan for the building of bridges. The main roads now managed by the Public Works Department are in extent 1,879 miles, which with the parochial roads make over 4,000 miles of carriage roads in the Island; and during the past five years 150 bridges have been built extending in the aggregate to a total length with their approaches of 22 miles. The effect of these roads and bridges on the fruit trade may be seen by the following figures:—The value of fruit exported from 1889 to 1893 was £2,470,100; the value for the next period of four years to 1897, during which roads were being constructed and bridges built, was £2,653,397. But the benefits of facility of travel, coupled with the Exhibition, can be seen in other directions. Among the visitors were many keen business men, who were not slow to see the opportunities for prudent investment. The extension of the railway to Montego Bay and Port Antonio that had been decided upon by Sir Henry Norman was being rapidly pushed forward, and the value of inland properties materially enhanced. Investments were made in land, and companies have been formed for various manufactures that give promise of a prosperous future. A general awakening of interest in the improvements of our products has also followed the examination of those of other countries, and the agricultural activity has been further stimulated by the Jamaica Agricultural Society formed in 1895 and which has now several affiliated local branches.

I may be permitted to give a few figures that will show the general progress of the Colony.

In 1889 the postage rate was one penny for half an ounce within a radius of 13 miles from Kingston, and twopence per ounce beyond that area. In 1890 the rate of one penny per ounce was adopted for the whole Island.

In 1888-89 the number of letters and postcards passing through the post was 563,736; in 1896-97 it was 4,375,374.

In the same periods the postal and telegraph revenue was respectively £22,241 and £29,494. In 1888-89 there were 95 post offices and 44 telegraph stations. In 1896-97 the number increased to 162 post offices and 67 telegraph stations. In the former period there were 71,649 scholars entered on the books. In the latter the number was 83,731.

As regards the improvement in the condition of the people, I extract the following figures for a slightly different period submitted by me to the Royal West India Commissioners in the early part of this year.

In 1886 the number of taxpayers under £1 was 73,926; under £2, 7,964; £2 and upwards, 7,045. In 1896 the numbers were respectively 80,487, 16,013, and 10,928.

Put in another way the proportion of taxes paid was as follows :—

	Under £1.	Under £2.	£2 and upwards.
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
1886 ...	83·1	8·9	7·9
1896 ...	74·9	14·9	10·1

The general condition of the labouring classes at the two periods may be estimated by the following. In 1886, 603,354 persons deposited £313,323, or 10*s*. 4·6*d*. per head of the total population. In 1896, 694,865 deposited £427,240, or 12*s*. 4·9*d*. per head.

As regards the Government Savings Bank returns I fear that the figures are somewhat fallacious. Under the provisions of the Law the maximum sum allowed can be invested by two persons opening a joint account, and I find that in some cases large sums have thus been invested by the owner opening several joint accounts for the maximum sum in his own name and some other, using different names for the joint lodgment of each maximum. He was thus enabled to invest at call at 3 per cent. For instance, on making some enquiries into the causes of the increase in the withdrawals, I find that one person withdrew sums to the aggregate amount of £8,000 for the purchase of a property. The reduction of the rate of interest to 2½ per cent. will probably discourage the use of the Savings Bank for such investments, and tend to confine its operations to the legitimate sphere for which it was intended.

The commercial progress in the same period may be inferred from the following :—In 1886 the total tonnage entered and cleared was 466,124. In 1896 it was 803,702.

The comparative financial condition of the Colony cannot be shown by the figures of revenue received, as the taxation is not the same. The result of the activity caused by the Exhibition was a very large surplus, of which advantage was taken to remit various export duties and taxes on cattle, and in 1892, under the reciprocal arrangements with the United States, Customs duties were abandoned to the extent of over £30,000 per annum.

Upon the withdrawal from the arrangements by the United States these duties were not reimposed as there was still a considerable surplus, and it was understood that when that surplus was exhausted the Legislative Council would vote the necessary increase in the duties. The remission of taxation and Customs revenues thus abandoned since 1891 amounted to £685,700, and

JAMAICA. 1896–7.

deducting from that amount increased duties on rum, beer, sugar, and tobacco, the net amount abandoned was, to March 1897, £499,100. Last year the surplus was at length exhausted, and I proposed that the duties abandoned should be restored; this the majority of the elected members refused, and, as was pointed out to them during the debate, the result will necessarily be a deficit at the end of the financial year. I have no doubt that in the ensuing session the elected members will recognise the mistake they have made, and restore the finances to a satisfactory condition. That the position is clearly understood is evident from the fact that Jamaica 4 per cent. Inscribed Stock that in 1889 stood at 104 to 105 is now 121 to 123.

It is a matter of deep regret to me that in the last year of my lengthened administration the Colony should have been visited by drought, floods, depression, and disease. Jamaica has not been exempted from the abnormal climatic conditions that have produced universal disturbance and distress. For the first time for many years yellow fever has appeared at two of the ports and in one inland parish, and all over the Island the people have suffered severely from low fevers, not such as place them in doctors' hands, or to increase the mortality to any appreciable extent, but enough to produce a general feeling of lassitude and depression that re-acts upon all business, and makes them despondent in the face of low prices. But this is only a passing condition. The yellow fever is rapidly declining, and with the advent of the cool weather and sea breezes, that ought to have come before now, it will, I have no doubt, entirely disappear, as will the autumn fevers that have been so unduly prolonged, and the normal condition of salubrity will be restored. In the meantime local authorities are busily engaged in the permanent improvement of sanitation all over the Island, so that the losses caused by the exceptional trials of this year will not be without their compensating advantages in the future.

In conclusion, I would say that after nine years intimate experience of the Island, with its law-abiding population, I am convinced of its financial soundness, its steady progress, and its future prosperity.

HENRY A. BLAKE,
Governor.

King's House,
31st December 1897.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 221.

LABUAN.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1896.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 180.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
December 1897.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 1-3, Great St. Thomas Apostle, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C. or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, Hanover Street, Edinburgh, and
90, West Nile Street, Glasgow; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., Limited, 104, Grafton Street, Dublin.

1897.

[C.—8650-19.] *Price* 2*d*.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
190	Jamaica	1895–96
191	Canada	1895
192	Bermuda	1896
193	Bahamas	,,
194	Zululand	,,
195	Gambia	,,
196	Malta	,,
197	British New Guinea	1895–96
198	Turks and Caicos Islands	1896
199	Barbados	,,
200	Leeward Islands	1895
201	Trinidad and Tobago	1896
202	Gibraltar	,,
203	Fiji (Trade)	,,
204	Straits Settlements	1895
205	Do. do.	1896
206	Falkland Islands	,,
207	British Honduras	,,
208	Sierra Leone	,,
209	Grenada	,,
210	Hong Kong	,,
211	St. Lucia	,,
212	St. Vincent	,,
213	St. Helena	,,
214	Seychelles	,,
215	Mauritius	,,
216	Cocos—Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1897
217	Fiji	1896
218	Ceylon	,,
219	Lagos	,,
220	Gold Coast	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.

No. 221.

LABUAN.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 180 of this Series.)

GOVERNOR BEAUFORT to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Governor's Office, Labuan,
6th October, 1897.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Labuan Blue Book for the year 1896.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The total amount collected was $55,008·13, whilst the total Expenditure was $53,888·63, showing a surplus of $1,119·50.

The following table shows the principal sources of Revenue and the increase or decrease from the same source in 1895, cents being omitted.

Source.	Received in 1896.	Increase.	Decrease.
	$	$	$
Land Revenue	2,949	15	—
Rents exclusive of land	4,550	373	—
Licences (opium, &c.)...	29,840	6,167	—
Customs...	3,081	2,329	—
Postal & Inland Revenue	6,624	—	1,575

15122*—75—11/97 Wt 20613 D & S—5 (B)

LABUAN. 1896.

Under Expenditure it is only necessary to account for the large decrease of $16,806 under the heading of *Works and Buildings*, which was due to there being no extraordinary undertakings as in 1895 when the offices and quarters of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company were built.

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

Mr. Resident Flint returned to Sandakan and Mr. F.O. Maxwell was appointed Acting-Resident. The Emaum was dismissed for misconduct in December.

CHURCHES.

No church has yet been built to replace that burnt down in 1889. The Bishop generally visits Labuan once a year and the Chaplain from Sandakan two or three times.

EDUCATION.

There is a small school in Victoria built by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel; this is conducted, under the direction of the Bishop and Chaplain, by a Chinese School Master. The average daily attendance is about a dozen boys, no girls. The British North Borneo Company contributes $200 per annum towards its support.

LEGISLATION.

The only proclamations of the year were those prohibiting the export of arms and ammunition to Netherlands India, and that relating to neutrality, published on account of the disturbances in the Philippine Islands. Notifications were also published relating to Dog Licences, Carts and Carriages, and Cattle straying and pasturing on Government lands.

TRADE.

There was a considerable increase in the value of both the Imports and Exports as compared with 1895, the total values being :—

——	1895.	1896.	Increase.
	$	$	$
Imports	685,889	707,749	21,860
Exports	566,621	593,933	27,312

In *Imports* the noticeable increases are mostly under food, drinks, and narcotics. Under raw materials there are several heavy decreases, notably, Dammar and Gutta Percha. Rattans, however, have nearly doubled, and Sago flour continues to increase.

In *Exports* the raw materials are practically the same, Labuan being only a depôt for shipment as regards this class of goods. It is only necessary to mention the coal exported, 52,071 tons as against 44,443 tons the year before.

SHIPPING.

The following table shows that the increase in the shipping of the port for the previous year was more than maintained.

Year.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.
1894	121	56,879
1895	135	70,367
1896	183	128,109

The increase is mainly due to the increasing number of steamers calling for coal. The output of coal from the mines continues to increase, the production for 1896 being 46,449 tons, as against 39,973 tons in 1895.

GAOLS AND CRIME.

There is very little serious crime, the number of offences reported to the police amounting to 53 only, as against 93 the preceding year, the daily average of prisoners being 8·36 against 8·56 for 1895.

HOSPITALS.

Two hundred and sixty nine male patients were admitted during the year, and two females. Of these 209 were cured, 17 relieved, 11 absconded, and 26 died, the balance remaining in hospital at the end of the year.

There was no epidemic disease during the year.

POSTAL.

33,119 letters and cards and 18,642 newspapers passed through the Post Office, as against 26,513 letters and 18,842 newspapers

LABUAN. 1896.

in 1895. Stamps were sold to the value of $8,043·55 compared with $8,746·36 in 1895, the difference being occasioned by the decrease in the demands of collectors. The value of orders issued and paid was $12,531, against $5,055 in the preceding year.

GENERAL.

The following of Her Majesty's Ships visited the Colony during the year :—

March 10th	...	H.M.S. "Undaunted."
July 12th	...	„ "Porpoise."
October 17th	...	„ "Rainbow."
December 23rd	...	„ "Pique."

By the direction of the Secretary of State, His Excellency Sir Charles B. H. Mitchell, G.C.M.G., High Commissioner for Borneo, held an enquiry at Labuan into some grievances, alleged in a Petition signed by a large number of the inhabitants, and forwarded to the Secretary of State.

The 24th of December being the 50th Anniversary of the foundation of the Colony, the event was marked by a Public Meeting. His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief of the China Station sent H.M.S. "Pique" to be present on the occasion.

I have, etc.,

LEICESTER P. BEAUFORT,

Governor.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1–3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

1897.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

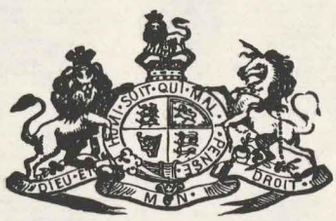
No. 219.

LAGOS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1896.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 185.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
November 1897.



LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1897.

[C.—8650-17.] *Price* 1*d*.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
188	British Guiana	1895–96
189	Gold Coast	1895
190	Jamaica	1895–96
191	Canada	1895
192	Bermuda	1896
193	Bahamas...	,,
194	Zululand	,,
195	Gambia	,,
196	Malta	,,
197	British New Guinea	1895–96
198	Turks and Caicos Islands	1896
199	Barbados	,,
200	Leeward Islands	1895
201	Trinidad and Tobago	1896
202	Gibraltar	,,
203	Fiji (Trade)	,,
204	Straits Settlements	1895
205	Do. do.	1896
206	Falkland Islands	,,
207	British Honduras	,,
208	Sierra Leone	,,
209	Grenada	,,
210	Hong Kong	,,
211	St. Lucia	,,
212	St. Vincent	,,
213	St. Helena	,,
214	Seychelles	,,
215	Mauritius	,,
216	Cocos Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1897
217	Fiji	1896
218	Ceylon	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.

No. 219.

LAGOS.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 185 of this Series.)

GOVERNOR MCCALLUM TO MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Lagos,
22nd September 1897.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward six copies of the Blue Book for 1896, together with report on the same by the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,

HENRY MCCALLUM,
Governor.

Colonial Secretariat, Lagos,
10th September 1897.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit six copies of the Blue Book for 1896, together with my report upon it.

The report is not so full as I could wish, but I have been somewhat pressed as regards work of late and I think it better to send it in its present condition than to delay its rendition any further.

14970*—75—11/97 Wt 20613 D & S—5 (B)

LAGOS. 1896.

TAXES, DUTIES, FEES.

The only alteration under this head was that the transit duty to Porto Novo on spirits, which was raised in October 1895 to 2*s.* per gallon, was reduced to the old rate, 1¼*d.* per gallon. The change did not take place until the 8th December, and this was too late in the year to allow of an opinion being formed as to whether the transit trade with Porto Novo would resume its former dimensions under the improved conditions of import through Lagos.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

2. The balance to the credit of the Colony on the 31st December 1895 was £54,146. The revenue for the year amounted to £179,745 9*s.* 9*d.*, and the expenditure was £168,444 17*s.* 7*d.*; the available balance therefore, on the 31st December 1896, was £65,447. The estimate of revenue for the year was £178,135, and was slightly exceeded, but, as a result of the increase of the duty from 1*s.* to 2*s.* per gallon, which was introduced in October 1895, the quantity of spirits imported into the Colony in 1896 was 486,572 gallons less than in the previous year—a very marked falling off.

3. Again, the estimated expenditure was £200,439, but of this sum £40,000 was for the bridges and railway, which has since been provided by a loan; it therefore stood at £160,439 which was less than the amount actually expended by nearly £8,000.

4. The following statements of revenue for the past 10 years mark the progress of the Colony during that period, but in considering these figures it must be borne in mind that up to March 1891 the duty on spirits was 6*d.* per gallon; from that date until the 22nd June 1892, it stood at 8*d.*; from then until December 1895, at 1*s.*; and for 1896, it was raised to 2*s.* per gallon :—

	£
1887	51,346
1888	57,057
1889	57,633
1890	56,340
1891	78,624
1892	68,421
1893	115,317
1894	137,017
1895	142,049
1896	179,745

PROTECTIVE FORCES.

5. On the 1st January the constitution of the constabulary of the Colony was altered, the Civil Police being separated from the Hausa Force, and placed under a Commissioner who is directly responsible to the Governor.

6. The detail of both forces will be found in the Blue Book, and there is but little to be said on the subject of the results of the change as far as the Hausa Force is concerned.

7. The Civil Police are, however, a different matter, and I have much pleasure in testifying to the improvement which has been effected in their general appearance and efficiency by making them an independent force. The manner in which they have responded to the care that has been bestowed upon them by Captain Hamilton during the year under report speaks well for the condition to which they can be brought, provided they have capable and energetic officers over them.

PUBLIC WORKS.

8. The principal works carried out during the year were the erection of a new Treasury; of quarters for the European nurses attached to the Colonial Hospital; of a new hospital, with outbuildings, on the site purchased from Messrs. Regis Ainé et Cie in 1894; and of brickmaking works at Ebute Metta.

9. A sanitary department was established under Mr. Mackison, but very little improvement was effected in the sanitary conditions of the town during the year. The subject is now receiving close attention.

10. A sum of £78,739 was placed on the Estimates for the year for "Public Works Extraordinary," but from this amount must be deducted the sum of £40,000 for the bridges and railways, which were provided for by loan, the amount actually expended under the head in question being £38,758.

11. Bridges connecting Lagos Island with the mainland were commenced, but the progress made was not very great. The connection is carried out by way of Iddo Island, the length to be spanned between Lagos and that place being 2,104 feet. From Iddo Island to Ebute Metta the distance is 917 feet, and in this case the carriage bridge is to be supplemented by a railway bridge, it being arranged that, for the present, Iddo Island shall be the terminus of the railway.

12. The greater part of 1896 was taken up in making preparations for the commencement of the railway, but in December two contractors' locomotives arrived and by the end of that month a few hundred yards of line were laid. Since then the permanent way has progressed rapidly, and it has now passed the Ilo river and the section between Ota and Abeokuta will be very shortly commenced.

LAGOS. 1896.

The expenditure on bridges during the year was £37,546, and on the railway £31,626.

LEGISLATION.

13. The following Ordinances became law during 1896 :—

"An Ordinance to declare the terms upon which loans may be raised by the Government of Lagos." (No. 1 of 1896.)

This enactment lays down the terms upon which the Colony may borrow money in England, but is not applicable to loans raised in Lagos by the Government.

An Ordinance entitled "An Ordinance for raising the sum of £255,000." (No. 2 of 1896.)

The object of this measure was to enable the Government to provide the funds required for the erection of bridges between Lagos and the mainland, and the construction of the railway from Ebute Metta to Ota by means of a loan raised in England.

An Ordinance entitled "An Ordinance to provide for the construction and maintenance of a railway for the Colony of Lagos." (No. 3 of 1896.)

Under this law, provision is made for carrying out the executive details connected with the construction and maintenance of the railway. It has, however, been amended by Ordinance No. 9.

An Ordinance entitled "An Ordinance to amend the Police Ordinance 1895." (No. 4 of 1896.)

The Ordinance of 1895, reconstituting the police force, omitted to preserve the rights of those constables who had been in the force under the old conditions and an enactment was necessary to definitely deal with the point ; hence the present measure.

An Ordinance entitled "An Ordinance to legalise certain payments made in the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, beyond the expenditure authorized by law." (No. 5 of 1896.)

An Ordinance entitled "An Ordinance to remove doubts as to the validity of certain proceedings in the Supreme Court of the Colony of Lagos." (No. 6 of 1896.)

This Ordinance was required to set at rest certain doubts which had arisen with regard to the validity of the appointment of two Commissioners to perform the duties of Chief Justice when Mr. Rayner became seriously ill at the end of 1895.

An Ordinance entitled "An Ordinance for the protection of illiterate persons in the Colony of Lagos." (No. 7 of 1896.)

In a Colony where two-thirds at least of the population are unable to read and write or speak English, an enactment of this nature is an absolute necessity, and it was therefore found imperative to take legislative action in the direction indicated in the preamble to the measure.

An Ordinance entitled "An Ordinance to enable the Governor to issue a commission of enquiry with special powers." (No. 8 of 1896.)

This Ordinance was passed to meet a want experienced by Mr. Brandford Griffith during his administration of the Government of the Colony. It provides for the appointment of a Commissioner or Commissioners and gives power to them to summon witnesses and to examine them on oath.

An Ordinance entitled "An Ordinance to amend and extend the Railway Construction Ordinance 1896." (No. 9 of 1896.)

This Ordinance repealed the seventh section of the "Railway Construction Ordinance 1896," and in its place enacted provisions relating to bye-laws and regulations somewhat similar in nature to those in the repealed section, but much more extensive in character, and it also attaches a penalty, not exceeding £10, to any breach of such bye-laws and regulations. It further gives powers of summary punishment to a Police Magistrate or District Commissioner in specific cases, and applied certain sections of the Imperial Acts to the Colony and Protectorate.

An Ordinance entitled "An Ordinance to amend the Customs Tariff (Spirits) Ordinance 1895. (No. 10 of 1896.)

By this measure the transit duty of $1\frac{1}{4}d.$ per gallon on spirits passing to the French Colony of Dahomey, which had been disallowed in 1895, was resumed.

An Ordinance entitled "An Ordinance to provide for the service of the Colony during the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven." (No. 11 of 1896.)

Councils.

14. There was no change in the permanent constitution of either Council during the year, but as the Colonial Secretary, Queen's Advocate, and Treasurer were all on leave for a part of the time, the officers acting for them had seats temporarily in both Councils.

15. The Councils were presided over by Sir Gilbert Carter from 1st January to 24th June; by Mr. Frank Rohrweger from 24th June to 14th July; by His Honour William Brandford Griffith, Chief Justice of the Gold Coast Colony, who was appointed by commission to administer the Government of the Colony in the absence of Sir G. Carter and the Colonial

LAGOS. 1896.

Secretary, from 14th July to 31st August; by Mr. Frank Rohrweger from 31st August to 11th November; and by Captain G. C. Denton, C.M.G., the Colonial Secretary, from the latter date until the end of the year.

16. Leave of absence was granted to the Honourable J. J. Thomas and his place whilst he was away was taken by Mr. J. W. Cole.

Civil Establishment.

17. Sir Gilbert Carter was invalided out of the Colony on the 24th June, and Mr. Frank Rohrweger as Acting Colonial Secretary, assumed the administration of the Government on that date. His Honour William Brandford Griffith, Chief Justice of the Gold Coast, arrived at Lagos on the 14th July and was appointed Acting Governor by commission from Her Majesty. He, however, proceeded on leave of absence on the 31st August when the Acting Colonial Secretary, Mr. Frank Rohrweger, as senior civil member of the Executive Council, once more took over charge of the Government which he retained until the return from leave of Captain G. C. Denton, C.M.G., the Colonial Secretary.

Vital Statistics.

18. It is impossible to deal with the statistics of the whole Colony as the Registration Ordinance only applies to Lagos itself, and I therefore propose to confine my remarks to the Island as distinct from the portion of the Colony and Protectorate situated on the mainland.

19. The population may be taken as 33,500, the number of Europeans being estimated by the Registrar General at 150.

20. 1,545 births were registered, the number of illegitimate children being 225; of these 348 were returned as Christian, 1,012 as Mohammedan, and 185 as Pagan. The birth rate was 47 per thousand.

21. Only 49 marriages were registered, but this is 12 more than were returned for 1895; of these 20 were performed by Clergymen of the Church of England, 17 by Ministers of the Wesleyan Church, 11 in accordance with the rites of the Romish Church, and 1 by the Baptist persuasion. No marriages were celebrated at the Registrar's Office.

Deaths.

22. There was a slight decrease in the number of deaths, the figures being 1,702 for 1896 as against 1,775 for 1895. This gives a rate of 52 per thousand and shows a very heavy mortality when compared with the average death rate for England, which is 19·14 per thousand. Infant mortality was especially heavy, 623 deaths of children under one year of age being registered.

23. The year was very fatal to Europeans, there being no less than 28 deaths out of an estimated population of 150. From these figures it will be seen that the European death rate reached 190 per thousand. Six Government officials died during the year in Lagos, viz., Mr. C. de la Poer Beresford, Master of Government Vessels, Mr. George Tallboy, Accountant to the Bridges and Railway Works, Mr. William Randall, Foreman of Works, Mr. Walter Robert Higginson, Inspector of the Hausa Force, Mr. Reginald Robert Gace, Assistant Collector of Customs, and Mr. G. H. Easton, Keeper of the Prison. Mention must also be made of the death of Major Edward Stanley, who was invalided home and expired at Accra some few hours after leaving Lagos.

24. This is a very heavy record, especially when it is remembered that all the persons named were in the prime of life and had been medically examined before they were appointed.

25. In 1895 there were sixteen deaths amongst the European section of the community, the only one of which that was in any way connected with the Government being that of Lady Carter, the wife of the Governor.

In 1894, Captain Suttleworth, Master of Government Vessels, died on the 1st January, and Mr. Swan, Engineer of Government Vessels, on the 5th May, the total number of deaths amongst Europeans being 23. From the 17th November 1888 to the 1st January 1894, the only deaths that occurred amongst Government officials were those of Mr. Orme, Foreman of Works, on the 5th May 1892, and the Reverend M. J. Sunter, Inspector of Schools, on the 15th December of the same year.

26. From these figures it does not look as if the conditions of life in Lagos have become more healthy as the Colony has developed. It may, of course, be said that 1896 was an exceptionally bad year and this is undoubtedly true, but I regret to say 1897 shows no improvement, as up to the present date (10th September) no less than 18 Europeans have died, of whom six were in the service of the Government.

BANKS.

27. The only independent bank in the Colony is the Bank of British West Africa, Limited, which is managed under the auspices of Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co., the agents for the African Steamship Companies. This bank has benefitted the Colony in many ways and supplies a want which was much felt in the past. It has, I believe, been fairly successful in its transactions and, by advancing money against produce on reasonable terms, has considerably improved the position of the small trader.

28. The Treasury Savings Bank continued its good work, the amount of deposits during the year being £9,248 as against £7,157 in 1895. Such a material increase as that obtained in 1896 is, I submit, a good sign for the future prosperity of the Colony.

LAGOS. 1896.

EDUCATION.

29. The most important event connected with Education was the establishment of a school for Mohammedan children where instruction is given in English, reading, writing, and arithmetic. For some years past the necessity of such an institution had been impressed on the leading Mohammedans by Sir Alfred Moloney, Sir Gilbert Carter, and by myself; but great opposition was offered by the priests and elders to any scheme proposed, from fear of possible encroachments on their religion. Thanks to the influence of Dr. Blyden, who has interested himself very greatly in the subject, the Mohammedans were at last persuaded to establish such a school in June 1896, and there are at the present moment some 80 pupils attending it. At first they insisted on keeping in their own hands the control of the building, and upon the teachers being all Mohammedan, but as the rent of the schoolhouse and the salaries of the teachers have since the 1st June last been paid by the Government, the institution now bids fair to become a purely Governmental establishment under the management of the Inspector of Schools. An important point has been gained by the establishment of this school, and it is indeed a new era in the history of Lagos when the most conservative element of the Muslim population have concluded to enter into competition with the Christians in their efforts to acquire Western learning.

30. Early in the year, the Inspector of Schools, Mr. Henry Carr, was sent to England by the Government to take up a special course of studies at the Royal College of Science, with a view to the introduction of the teaching of Elementary Science in the Secondary Schools of the Colony. Owing to his absence, the annual examination of the schools was not held, and the grants to the schools, which amounted in all to £1,196 19*s.* 0*d.*, were made on the bases of the earnings of the preceding year.

31. The school statistics, as furnished by the heads of the religious denominations, stand as follows :—

Denomination.	No. of Schools and Departments.	Scholars.		Total.
		Male.	Female.	
Church of England ...	15	1,044	587	1,631
Wesleyan Methodist ...	6	428	178	660
Roman Catholic	8	364	341	705
Baptist	1	44	44	88
United African Church ...	1	97	90	187
Total	31	2,031	1,240	3,371

32. The School Inspector's Report for 1895 returned the number of children on the registers of the schools as 3,276. There is thus an increase of about 100 children attending school, and to this must be added those belonging to the Mohammedan School and about 100 girls in private schools which have not furnished any returns to the Government.

33. The Eighth Annual Competitive Exhibition of School Work was held on the 19th of December. This Exhibition showed signs of progress on previous ones, as, in addition to the number of exhibits being larger and the attendance greater, six new subjects, viz., shorthand, wood carving, weaving, straw plaiting, joinery, and smith's work, were introduced for competition. Prizes were awarded in five of these subjects, and it is to be hoped that, as years go on, it may be found possible to still further widen the scope of the Exhibition. The total number of exhibits was 454, as against 329 in 1895, and 18 schools were represented instead of 14 in the preceding year. 512 tickets of admission to the opening ceremony were issued.

34. With a view to encouraging manual instruction, the curriculum of the Rebecca Hussey Charity Institution for the maintenance and education of alien boys has been enlarged, and such arrangements have been made as will enable boys from all the schools in the Colony to take advantage of the instruction in the classes and workshops of the Institution; 12 pupils are also received who are given instruction in recognised elementary as well as technical subjects. The Government makes a special annual grant of £500 to the Institution, in order to enable the trustees to give effect to the enlarged scheme. Instruction is regularly given in carpentry, smith's work, bricklaying, painting, glazing, and colouring, and various works, such as a chest of drawers, ledge doors, sash doors and frame, iron bolts, &c., for private persons in the community have been executed in the workshops. At the last Exhibition of School Work the pupils of this Institution carried off the highest prizes in technical exhibits.

35. The existing system under which grants depend on individual passes has not been found to work well; notably in compelling the promotion of pupils from standard to standard in all subjects with barely the minimum of knowledge in reading and in either writing or arithmetic. A new code has therefore been submitted to the Board of Education, drafted on the principle of freedom of classification, and in which special provision is made for necessitous schools in the poorer districts, and for an adequate supply of competent teachers. It is to be hoped that when the draft code becomes law a much needed impetus will be given to education in the Colony.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

36. The value of the imports for the year was £881,696, as against £771,843 in 1895. As usual cotton goods were the largest item, their value being £350,000. 1,224,041 gallons of spirits were imported and were valued at £54,059. Tobacco and cigars were estimated to be worth £16,922, and wines £2,939.

37. Whilst on this subject, it may not be without interest to draw a comparison between 1888, the year in which I arrived in the Colony, and 1896. In 1888 the total value of the imports was £416,329, out of which sum spirits were responsible for £65,689. In 1896 the value of imports is stated to have been £881,696, whilst the spirits brought into the Colony represented £58,059 of this total. In other words, the imports into the Colony, exclusive of spirits, have risen from £350,641 in 1888 to £823,037 in 1896.

38. Exports were valued at £975,263 as against £985,595 in 1896; of this total, palm oil and palm kernels were represented by £159,150 and £343,206 respectively, whilst the comparatively new industry, rubber, contributed £347,721.

39. The following figures give the imports and exports for the past 10 years :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total Trade.
	£	£	£
1887	389,473	491,468	880,941
1888	416,329	508,327	924,756
1889	435,373	457,649	893,022
1890	478,104	595,193	1,073,297
1891	607,718	717,642	1,305,360
1892	460,550	577,083	1,037,633
1893	681,943	836,295	1,518,238
1894	690,794	821,681	1,512,475
1895	771,843	985,595	1,757,438
1896	881,696	975,263	1,856,959

AGRICULTURE.

40. The active extension of the influence of the Colony over the Hinterland has without question brought about a more peaceful condition of affairs there and, in this way, has conduced to an increased cultivation of the country, but in the absence of any survey it is impossible to even estimate, with any degree of accuracy, what such an increase amounts to. Wherever you go you find that the forest is being cleared and native products planted, and on all sides are to be seen indications that the inhabitants are taking advantage of the peace which now obtains in the interior to establish what are locally termed farms. I question, however, if the export of palm kernels and palm oil, the staples of the Colony, will show much improvement until an easier means of transport to the markets is forthcoming. For instance, beyond Ibadan to the eastward very little oil is prepared, and no attempt is made to collect the kernels, though the *Elaiis Guineensis* abounds there. No doubt when the railway to Ibadan is completed these industries will receive a great impetus, provided a remunerative price is to be obtained for them in Europe, but the tendency in this respect seems of a downward character and it would not be wise to take too sanguine a view of the prospects of the country if it remain dependent to such a great extent on palm oil and kernels. 1896 was a very dry year, and for this reason the crops were not so good as they generally are, and the scarcity of water was much felt.

BOTANIC STATION.

41. The Botanic Station still remains in existence at Ebute Metta, but the railway has absorbed some of the land belonging to it. It is proposed to establish a large experimental station in the neighbourhood of Ibadan, and if this be done the European curator will be placed in charge of it, the garden at Ebute Metta being under the care of one of the assistant curators.

GAOLS AND PRISONS.

42. The extension of the prison was continued during the year, and there were at the end of 1896, 161 separate cells, two associated wards, and two hospital wards. Convicted prisoners are confined in the separate cells, but untried prisoners and debtors are placed in the associated wards.

43. The prison for females is now completed and consists of eight separate cells, a hospital ward, associated ward, warders' quarters and kitchen with usual outbuildings; it is complete in itself and forms a very compact little prison.

44. Two persons were convicted of murder, but in neither case was the extreme penalty of the law carried out.

LAGOS. 1896.

HOSPITAL.

45. During the year the Colonial Hospital was removed from the site adjacent to the racecourse to the compound which was acquired from Messrs. Regis Ainé et Cie in 1894. Five separate wards and the necessary outbuildings were erected there during the year. This is a great improvement in every respect and when all the accommodation which it is proposed to provide is available, the institution will be a credit to the Colony.

46. A new departure was the appointment by the Government of two European nurses: Miss Clarke and Miss O'Flynn. These ladies arrived in the Colony on the 5th May, and have, during what was an exceptionally unhealthy year, rendered very valuable assistance to all classes of people making use of the hospital.

47. A great feature in the new hospital is the two wards for Europeans; these are supposed to be the particular care of the European nurses and are very much appreciated by that section of the community for whose benefit they were established.

GENERAL.

48. A generally active policy was pursued throughout the year in the Hinterland, and a detachment of Hausas was placed at Ogbomosho, in addition to those already stationed at Ibadan, Odo-Otin, and Oyo. Early in the year an attempt was made by Sir G. Carter to obtain the acceptance of the Ilorins to the boundary between that country and Yoruba Land as defined by Captain Bower and Captain Lugard in 1895, but they declined to enter into negotiations on the subject and gave proof of their determination to stand out by attacking Odo-Otin in great force in May 1896. They were driven off with considerable loss but still held an aggressive attitude against this Government, and the Ilorin authorities would not allow communication with us in any way. In fact, so firm was their resolve on this point that they informed the Lagos Mahommedans they would kill any messenger sent by them with Government letters or messages.

49. This conduct on the part of the Ilorins affected the trade of the Colony very seriously, and it also caused a very disturbed feeling to prevail in our territory, which resulted in the cultivation of the land near the boundary being almost altogether abandoned.

50. Except for the attacks on Odo-Otin to which I have alluded, Yoruba Land remained passive and quiescent throughout the year. The occupation of the country may be, and no doubt is, unpopular with the principal chiefs, whose powers are much limited by it, but the bulk of the people like it and, in consequence of it, their position is far more free and independent than was the case previous to 1894.

51. That vexed question, the harm done to the natives of the interior by the spirit trade, still remains under discussion, and whilst on this subject I should like to point out that the quantity of spirits which reach the Hinterland through Lagos appears to be very moderate when considered from a capitation point of view; the comparison between the general trade of the Colony and the spirit trade is also re-assuring, as whilst the latter has increased nearly 150 per cent. the former is only 100,000 gallons or 10 per cent. greater in volume than it was in 1888.

52. I have during a service of over nine years in Lagos travelled a great deal along the Lagoon and in the interior countries, and I am bound to say that drunken people are but rarely met with and that the representations on the subject are much exaggerated. There are more drunken people to be seen in Abeokuta than any other town, I think, but even there the number is very, very small compared with the population of the place. No one is more anxious than myself to prevent the introduction into the Hinterland of ardent spirits in undue quantities, and as the surest means of checking the trade I should like to see the duty on them raised, if an international agreement on the point can be arrived at, but it would be useless for Lagos to follow this course alone as the only result would be a great influx of spirits from Dahomey which would cause loss of revenue to the Colony and do no good to the people whom it is desired to benefit. That increased duties do check importation is evidenced by the fact that the quantity of spirits brought into the Colony at the 1*s.* duty in 1895 exceeded the import for 1896 when the duty was 2*s.* by 480,000 gallons odd.

53. I do not think sufficient notice is taken of the increase in the general trade of the Colony. For the last ten years it has steadily risen and if the development of the interior be proceeded with, I see no reason why the progress already secured should not be continued for a considerable number of years to come.

54. No doubt Porto Novo begins to be a formidable opponent to Lagos and the successful erection of a pier at Kotonou has done much to injure our transit trade, which is of great value to us, not for the revenue it yields but from the fact that other trade follows it. Here that oft discussed question the opening of the Bar comes in, and I have no hesitation in saying that it is one of the greatest importance and must be speedily dealt with if we are to derive a fair measure of benefit from the railway we are constructing at such great cost. In 1892 Sir John Coode estimated the cost of opening the harbour by means of permanent works to ships drawing 20 feet of water at £830,000, but with the greater facilities for obtaining stone which will exist as soon as the railway reaches Awowo this expenditure should be considerably lessened. A scheme for connecting the harbour with the sea by means of a canal capable of taking large steamers

LAGOS, 1896.

has also been put forward, and on paper this seems a solution of the difficulty at considerably less cost than would be entailed by the original design ; but I understand that it does not find favour with the experts who have considered the matter, and I daresay there are objections to it of a practical nature which do not occur to the lay mind. However this may be, an expert sent out by Messrs. Coode & Matthews is now in Lagos, and it is to be hoped that he will obtain such data as will enable the consulting engineers to devise works which will effectively open the harbour to large vessels for such an expenditure as will be within the means of the Colony.

55. In conclusion I beg to state that the year presented no special features of interest calling for report, but on the whole gave signs of progress which I trust will be realised in the near future.

I have, &c.,

GEORGE C. DENTON,

Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency the Governor,

Lagos.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 227.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1896.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 200.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
April, 1898.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN

1898.

[C.—8650-25.] *Price* 1*d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
196	Malta	1896
197	British New Guinea	1895–96
198	Turks and Caicos Islands	1896
199	Barbados	„
200	Leeward Islands	1895
201	Trinidad and Tobago	1896
202	Gibraltar...	„
203	Fiji (Trade)	„
204	Straits Settlements	1895
205	Do. do.	1896
206	Falkland Islands	„
207	British Honduras	„
208	Sierra Leone	„
209	Grenada	„
210	Hong Kong	„
211	St. Lucia	„
212	St. Vincent	„
213	St. Helena	„
214	Seychelles	„
215	Mauritius	„
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1897
217	Fiji	1896
218	Ceylon	„
219	Lagos	„
220	Gold Coast	„
221	Labuan	„
222	British Guiana	1896–97
223	Rodrigues	1896
224	Basutoland	1896–97
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate	„

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.

No. 227.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 200.)

GOVERNOR SIR F. FLEMING to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Springfield House,
St. Kitts,
28th February 1898.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit the Report on the Blue Book of the Leeward Islands for 1896 which has been prepared by the Acting Colonial Secretary.

2. The Revenue of the Colony during the year in question amounted to £138,660, being £19,578 in excess of that for the year 1895, but, notwithstanding this fact, it was insufficient to meet the expenditure, which amounted to £149,437.

3. It is satisfactory, however, to find, when comparing this expenditure with that of 1895, that there was a net decrease of £15,937.

4. When I assumed the administration of this Government in March 1895 the financial condition of the Colony appeared to be deserving of serious attention, and I felt it my duty to bring to the notice of the Secretary of State what I considered to be the unsatisfactory state of the Finances in the different Presidencies, while endeavouring to do all in my power to curtail expenditure as much as possible.

6. It was considered advisable that an officer of the Colonial Department should proceed to the Colony to investigate and report upon its financial position, and Mr. Olivier was consequently appointed Auditor-General, and assumed that office in the autumn of 1895.

7. Mr. Olivier went very carefully into all matters involving Revenue and Expenditure, and on his departure in 1896 certain Financial Instructions were issued, the effect of which has been to check expenditure and to prevent the disbursements of public moneys otherwise than in strict conformity with regulations laid down.

16348*—75—3/98 Wt 21620 D & S—5 (B)

LEEWARD ISLANDS. 1896.

8. But whatever means are had recourse to in this direction, it is difficult to see how the islands forming this Colony can continue to incur the cost which seems essential for their proper and efficient government unless something be done to improve the value of their staple article and enable sugar to be manufactured in such quantities and of such quality as will cause it to compete fairly with the sugars of other countries.

9. No one at the present day can expect that sugar will fetch again the prices it has fetched in the past, but the possession of such machinery as would enable a better quality and a larger quantity to be produced in these islands, or a less waste of raw material to be incurred, would enable the planters to compete with other sugar-producing countries on more favourable conditions than they are able to do at the present time.

10. It should, however, be borne in mind, apart from the granting of bounties, which necessarily result in the greatest possible detriment to the sugar growers of the West Indies, that the cultivation of sugar is likely to increase.

11. While I therefore sympathise with the planters of this Colony in the difficulties they have to encounter and the hardships inflicted on them by the bounty system, I would at the same time urge upon them the necessity of doing whatever is in their power to provide for the time when, even apart from the giving of bounties, the price of sugar may be less even than it is to-day.

12. I am fully aware that Antigua and St. Kitts are peculiarly well adapted for the growth of sugar, perhaps more so than any other country in the world. The soils of these islands are rich, labour is cheap, and the frequent droughts with which Antigua is visited affect the sugar cane to a less degree than any other product.

13. In the month of February 1896 very serious disturbances took place in St. Kitts, which arose from some dispute about wages between the employer and employed.

The town of Basseterre, the capital of the island, was attacked by the rioters, who broke into the stores, set fire to the houses, &c.

H.M.S. "Cordelia," which was fortunately at Antigua at the time, proceeded to St. Kitts, and, with the assistance of her officers and men, the disturbances were quelled, although a very uneasy feeling existed in the island for some months subsequently.

14. In November of the same year serious floods took place in the Island of Montserrat, causing a considerable destruction of property and some loss of life.

Through the generous aid of the neighbouring Colonies, more especially Trinidad, and the timely intervention of the Lord Mayor of London, who kindly opened a subscription list for the sufferers, a sufficient amount was collected to afford such relief as was necessary.

15. It is worthy of remark that from the time these floods took place Montserrat has suffered from continued shocks of earthquakes of more or less severity.

16. In a report I received from the Commissioner of that Presidency, Mr. Baynes mentions that on the 15th of this month several shocks of earthquake occurred in the island, which have since been followed by shocks, more or less severe, causing considerable damage to buildings, although no loss of life has been mentioned.

The Commissioner draws attention to the fact that these shocks have been of frequent occurrence since the floods of 1896, and that of late their severity has greatly increased. Mr. Baynes adds that the subject is one of peculiar interest and seems to be well deserving of scientific investigation.

17. During 1896 the health of the Colony was satisfactory, and there was no recurrence of the fever which visited Antigua in the autumn of 1895.

I have, &c.,

F. FLEMING.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE COLONY OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1896.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Leeward Islands.

REVENUE.

The aggregate amount of the Revenue collected by the several Presidencies of the Colony during the year was £138,660, which, compared with the revenue of the preceding year, viz.: £119,082, shews an increase of £19,578.

LEEWARD ISLANDS. 1896.

The following comparative Return gives the Revenue collected in the respective Presidencies during the years 1895 and 1896, with the increase or decrease occurring in each Presidency :—

Presidency.	1895.	1896.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Antigua	44,348	54,951	10,603	—
St. Kitts-Nevis	43,215	49,561	6,346	—
Dominica	22,860	24,904	2,044	—
Montserrat	7,125	7,775	650	—
Virgin Islands	1,534	1,469	—	65
Total	£119,082	£138,660	£19,643	£65

Net Increase £19,578.

The Blue Book Return D 2 affords information, as regards each Presidency, with respect to the heads of Revenue under which there occurred either an increase or decrease between the years cited above.

EXPENDITURE.

The aggregate Expenditure of the Colony for the year under review was £149,437, as compared with £165,374 for 1895, shewing a reduction of Expenditure for the later period of £15,937.

The subjoined comparative Return shews the Expenditure of the respective Presidencies during the years 1895 and 1896, with the increase or decrease in each Presidency :—

Presidency.	1895.	1896.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Antigua	70,221	57,345	—	12,876
St. Kitts-Nevis	55,395	56,501	1,106	—
Dominica	27,102	25,189	—	1,913
Montserrat	10,702	8,732	—	1,970
Virgin Islands	1,954	1,670	—	284
Total	£165,374	£149,437	£1,106	£17,043

Net Decrease £15,937.

The Blue Book Return D 3 gives the respective heads of Expenditure with regard to each Presidency, under which there resulted either an increase or decrease in comparing one year with the other.

The following comparative Return of the Revenue collected and the Expenditure incurred by the several Presidencies of the Colony during the year under review shews a gross excess of Expenditure over Revenue amounting to £10,777 :—

Presidency.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Excess.
	£	£	£
Antigua	54,951	57,345	2,394
St. Kitts-Nevis	49,561	56,501	6,940
Dominica	24,904	25,189	285
Montserrat	7,775	8,732	957
Virgin Islands	1,469	1,670	201
Total	£138,660	£149,437	£10,777

In comparing the expenditure of the Colony for 1896 (£149,437) with that for 1895 (£165,374), it will be observed that a considerable reduction was effected in the later period, and, although the Revenue for 1896 increased considerably as compared with that realised in 1895, namely, to the extent of £19,578, it nevertheless proved inadequate to meet the year's expenditure in any of the Presidencies.

Antigua and Montserrat were placed in funds by means of advances which were procured by the Crown Agents on the credit of Treasury Debentures of those Presidencies.

This was also the case with respect to St. Kitts-Nevis, though not to the full extent of the excess shewn, as the Presidency, at the close of the year, had in addition to the advances made, overdrawn its account with the Crown Agents by more than £1,600.

To meet its Expenditure in excess of Revenue, Dominica had recourse, as a temporary measure, to the unexpended balance of the Imperial Grant.

The Presidency of the Virgin Islands overdrew its account with the Crown Agents.

Public Debt.

The Public Debt of the Colony on 31st December 1896, secured on the General Revenues—without taking into account Sinking Fund investments to provide for the eventual redemption

LEEWARD ISLANDS. 1896.

of Loans—stood at £301,221. The distribution of this amount is set forth in the following Statement, which also shews the amounts at the credit of Sinking Funds :—

Presidency.	Debt.	To Credit of Sinking Funds.
	£	£
Antigua	137,871	13,758
St. Kitts-Nevis	74.450	3,163
Dominica	70,900	7,911
Montserrat	18,000	412
Total	£301,221	£25,244

POPULATION.

During the year 5,219 births, 601 marriages and 3,404 deaths were registered. The last Census for the Colony was taken on the 5th of April 1891, when the population was 127,723. Between that date and the 31st of December 1896 the increase may be stated, approximately, at 8,311, which would bring the population at the close of the year up to 136,034. In the absence, however, of statistics dealing with Emigration and Immigration it is not possible to determine with any degree of accuracy what the probable number of inhabitants in the Colony may be at any given period.

The following Statement gives, approximately, the Population at the close of the year, with the number of Births, Deaths and Marriages registered in each Island during the year :—

Island.	Births.	Deaths.	Increase.	Population on Dec. 31st, 1896.	Marriages.
Antigua ...	1,399	1,069	330	36,995	198
Barbuda ...	42	27	15	669	1
St. Kitts ...	1,311	1,084	227	32,317	161
Nevis ...	686	386	300	14,322	88
Anguilla ...	145	54	91	4,082	15
Dominica	930	484	446	29,182	71
Montserrat ...	539	217	322	13,268	53
Virgin Islands ...	167	83	84	5,199	14
Total ...	5,219	3,404	1,815	136,034	601

LEGISLATION.

The General Legislative Council met at Antigua on the 10th December 1896, the Session continuing until the 21st December. Fifteen Acts were passed, the more important of which are :—

Act 1 of 1896—"An Act for the Construction and Abbreviation " of Laws," known as " The Interpretation of Laws Act 1896."

Act 4 of 1896—" An Act to provide for a Recognition in the " Colony of Probates and Letters of Administration granted in " the United Kingdom."

Act 5 of 1896—" An Act to incorporate a Mutual Fire " Assurance Society for the Leeward Islands."

Act 9 of 1896—" An Act to provide against the Importation " of Articles likely to introduce Disease among Plants."

The Local Councils of the several Presidencies held frequent sittings during the year. Twenty Acts were passed by the Legislature of Antigua, all of which came into force. Twenty-one Ordinances were passed by the St. Kitts-Nevis Legislature, one of which was disallowed, namely, " An Ordinance to provide " for the Enrolment of Auxiliary Police Constables."

Dominica passed seven Acts, Montserrat ten Ordinances and the Virgin Islands three. All the measures passed in the three Presidencies last mentioned were allowed and became law.

The Acts and Ordinances passed in the several Presidencies do not call for special mention.

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

Mr. L. J. Bertram was appointed on the 1st of February 1896 as Auditor-General of the Colony.

Mr. James Burnes, Treasurer of St. Kitts-Nevis, died on the 28th of December 1896, and Mr. E. O. Johnson was appointed, provisionally, to act as Treasurer.

Dr. Cookman was appointed in August to be Commissioner and Medical Officer of the Virgin Islands.

EDUCATION.

There has been an increase in the number attending Primary Schools (though to a less extent than in preceding years), the aggregate number appearing on the Registers of the several Presidencies for 1896 being 25,439, as compared with 25,120 for 1895, shewing an increase of 319. The average attendance increased from 12,402 in 1895 to 12,894 in the year under review. The School Fees, Government Grants, and Voluntary Contributions, taken together, amounted in 1896 to £8,640 10*s.* 6*d.*, while the total sum realized in 1895 from the sources named amounted to £8,403 18*s.* 6*d.*

LEEWARD ISLANDS. 1896.

HOSPITALS.

The subjoined tabulated Statements afford particulars of the number of persons undergoing treatment during the year in the several Hospitals and the Lunatic and Leper Asylums of the Colony, also the number of discharges from and deaths occurring in the respective Institutions.

HOSPITALS.

Hospital.	In Hospital on 1st January 1896.	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not Improved.	
Antigua	131	1,468	343	882	—	239
Cunningham, St. Kitts	116	1,002	712	143	43	96
Pogson, ditto ...	28	279	162	79	6	37
Nevis	26	77	38	20	2	22
Roseau, Dominica ...	29	305	239	34	6	20
Do. Yaws, ditto ...	22	26	28	—	—	—
Château, Montserrat	67	72	41	12	5	11
Montserrat	3	20	12	3	1	1
Virgin Islands ...	19	5	—	8	—	4

LUNATIC ASYLUMS, ANTIGUA.

Asylum.	In Asylum on 1st January 1896.	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not Improved.	
Rat Island	48	35	18	8	—	3
Ridge	32	8	5	—	—	3

LEPER ASYLUMS.

Asylum.	In Asylum on 1st January 1896.	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not Improved.	
Antigua	29	6	—	—	1	2
St. Kitts	71	2	—	15	—	8

Savings Banks.

Savings Banks are established in Antigua, St. Kitts, Nevis, Dominica and Montserrat. The aggregate amount paid in by Depositors during the year was £22,817 10*s.* 5*d.*, while the total amount withdrawn from the Banks was £27,111 1*s.* 2*d.* The lodgments were less than in the preceding year by £873 13*s.* 9*d.* and the total sum withdrawn exceeded the withdrawals of the previous year by £3,362 7*s.* 0*d.*

The amounts at credit of Depositors on 31st December 1896, in the under-mentioned Savings Banks, were—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Antigua	37,940	11	0
St. Kitts	7,536	19	3
Nevis	3,034	0	3
Dominica	4,772	11	9½
Montserrat	2,592	15	6
Total...	£55,876	17	9½

Post Office.

The transactions of the Post Office Department shew an increase as compared with those of the previous year. The Receipts from Letters, Post Cards, Newspapers, Books and Parcels exceeded the amount realized from this source of Revenue in 1895, while the Expenditure incurred for 1896 in the working of the Department was much reduced.

The following Statement gives the Revenue collected and Expenditure incurred, with the resulting deficit, in each of the years treated of. In connection with the recorded deficit in the working of the Postal Service of the Colony, consideration should be given to the fact of the free conveyance of all Official Mail matter through the Post. If such were prepaid and the Department allowed credit therefor, the apparent deficit, occurring annually, would probably cease to appear and a surplus be the result. Such an arrangement would ensure to the Department the full benefit derivable by way of postal receipts from the sale of Stamps, for work done in the direction indicated.

Revenue.			Expenditure.			Deficit.	
1895.	1896.	Increase.	1895.	1896.	Decrease.	1895.	1896.
£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
3,676 0 3½	4,033 3 11½	357 3 8	5,459 8 5½	4,948 15 7½	510 12 10	1,783 2 0	914 11 8

Inland Post letters and other articles dealt with numbered 240,758, as against 236,884 in the previous year.

LEEWARD ISLANDS. 1896.

Particulars of the Foreign Mail matter dealt with are given in the following statements :—

Articles.	Received.		Despatched.	
	1895.	1896.	1895.	1896.
Letters and Cards	223,191	215,429	202,895	253,669
Papers and Books	138,756	124,749	34,617	29,051
Parcels Post	5,053	4,924	1,115	1,012
Total	367,000	345,102	238,627	283,732

Articles Received and Sent.	United Kingdom.		United States.		Other Countries.		Totals.	
	1895.	1896.	1895.	1896.	1895.	1896.	1895.	1896.
Letters and Cards.. ..	95,650	157,928	43,015	47,310	287,421	263,860	426,086	469,098
Papers and Books.. ..	86,422	84,283	27,379	27,357	59,572	42,160	173,373	153,800
Parcels Post..	4,838	4,519	212	220	1,118	1,197	6,168	5,936
Total	186,910	246,730	70,606	74,887	348,111	307,217	605,627	628,834

IMPORTS.

The year's Importations, as compared with the value of the Imports for the preceding year, increased to the extent of £5,076. The following Comparative Return shews the distribution and total value of Imports during 1895 and 1896, respectively:—

Country whence imported.	Value of Imports.		1896.	
	1895.	1896.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£		£	£
United Kingdom	163,376	178,917	15,541	—
British Colonies	56,050	57,949	1,899	—
United States of America ...	162,191	149,982	—	12,209
Other Foreign Countries ...	15,505	15,350	—	155
Total	£397,122	£402,198	£17,440	£12,364

Net Increase £5,076.

The trade between the several islands comprising the Colony resulted in the importation of goods &c. into all the Presidencies aggregating in value the sum of £14,095 : the like imports in the previous year amounted to £18,868, shewing a falling off in the trade referred to of £4,773.

The figures supplied in the above statement reveal the fact that there occurred in 1896 an increase of trade—so far as importations are concerned—with the United Kingdom, and, to a less degree, with British Colonies. There was, however, a falling off in the trade with the United States of America, and imports from other foreign countries were slightly below the value of the previous year's importations.

The advance in the year's importations from the United Kingdom, as compared with 1895, is mainly accounted for by a larger trade in manufactured textile articles and other manufactured articles having taken place. The value of raw materials was also somewhat in excess of the previous year's importations.

The decrease in the value of articles procured from the United States of America was solely due to a reduction in the quantity of food supplies imported from that country.

The aggregate values of the Imports for the years 1895 and 1896 are classified in the following statement :—

Articles.	1895.	1896.	1896.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Live Animals	2,189	2,649	460	—
Food	170,931	158,378	—	12,553
Drinks	16,550	13,993	—	2,557
Narcotics	3,661	3,792	131	—
Raw Materials	14,063	16,953	2,890	—
Manufactured Articles :—				
Textile	82,457	91,376	8,919	—
Metal	19,712	20,873	1,161	—
Other Manufactures ...	87,559	92,684	5,125	—
	397,122	400,698	18,686	15,110
Coin and Bullion	—	1,500	1,500	—
Total	£397,122	£402,198	£20,186	£15,110

LEEWARD ISLANDS. 1896.

EXPORTS.

The total value of the Exports (exclusive of the trade between the Islands comprising the Colony) amounted to £316,510 as compared with £267,822 for the preceding year, the result being an increase in the value of the Exportations for the year of report to the extent of £48,688.

The following classified Statement shews the distribution of the Exports for the years specified, between the United Kingdom, the United States of America, British Colonies and Foreign Countries, with the increase or decrease in the export trade that was carried on :—

Countries to which exported.	Value of Exports.		1896.	
	1895.	1896.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	48,708	44,703	—	4,005
British Colonies	56,022	54,027	—	1,995
United States of America ...	142,826	196,141	53,315	—
Other Foreign Countries ...	20,266	21,639	1,373	—
Total	£267,822	£316,510	£54,688	£.6000

Net Increase £48.688.

The Export trade between the Presidencies during the year—exclusive of Coin and Bullion—aggregated £14,624, as compared with £19,621 in 1895, shewing a reduced trade to the extent of £4,997.

The principal Exports to countries beyond the Colony, with the respective quantities and gross value of each of the several

articles enumerated, are given in the following tabulated Return :—

Articles.	1895.		1896.	
	Exports.	Value.	Exports.	Value.
		£		£
Sugar... ... ... Tons	27,592	173,652	32,498	228,612
Molasses ... ... Puns	8,436	23,290	9,565	14,825
Rum ... ... Galls.	62,395	2,788	30,656	1,112
Coffee ... ... Lbs.	12,726	459	38,528	1,280
Cocoa... ... ... Lbs.	617,836	8,444	944,349	12,823
Limes and Lime Juice ...	—	19,599	—	19,240
Total	—	£228,232	—	£277,892

The decrease in the value of the Exportations to the United Kingdom occurred in the articles of Sugar, Rum, and Limes and Lime Juice, and the increased Exportations to the United States of America in those of Sugar, Molasses, and Limes and Lime Juice.

E. ALEXANDER FOSTER,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1–3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

1898.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

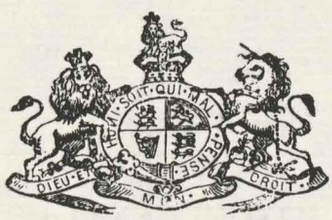
No. 215.

MAURITIUS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1896.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 183.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
November, 1897.



LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1897.

[C.—8650-13.] *Price* 1½*d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
185	Lagos	1895
186	Basutoland	1895–96
187	Ceylon	1895
188	British Guiana	1895–96
189	Gold Coast	1895
190	Jamaica	1895–96
191	Canada	1895
192	Bermuda	1896
193	Bahamas	,,
194	Zululand	,,
195	Gambia	,,
196	Malta	,,
197	British New Guinea	1895–96
198	Turks and Caicos Islands	1896
199	Barbados	,,
200	Leeward Islands...	1895
201	Trinidad and Tobago	1896
202	Gibraltar	,,
203	Fiji (Trade)	,,
204	Straits Settlements	1895
205	Do. do.	1896
206	Falkland Islands	,,
207	British Honduras	,,
208	Sierra Leone	,,
209	Grenada	,,
210	Hong Kong	,,
211	St. Lucia	,,
212	St. Vincent	,,
213	St. Helena	,,
214	Seychelles	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.

No. 215.

MAURITIUS.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 183 of this Series.)

GOVERNOR SIR CHARLES BRUCE to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,

Mauritius,

20th August, 1897.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you copies of the Mauritius Blue Book for the year 1896, together with copies of the usual report thereon.

I have, &c.,

CHAS. BRUCE,

Governor.

REPORT ON THE MAURITIUS BLUE BOOK, 1896.

TAXATION.

Taxation remained unchanged until the close of the year, when an Ordinance was passed to restore to its former rate of one rupee and thirty-two cents the excise duty per litre on Rum issued from the Central Rum Warehouse for home consumption.

In the previous year the duty had been reduced to one rupee and twenty cents, believing that the consumer would benefit thereby, but it was found that by the establishment of an "Accord," the object in view was defeated, and the seller, and not the consumer, reaped the benefit of the reduction, so that the higher rate of duty was restored.

14901*—75—10/97 Wt 20613 D&S—5 (B)

The Ordinance also provides for an increase from one rupee twenty cents to one rupee thirty-two cents a gallon on imported spirit of any strength not exceeding proof, according to Sykes's hydrometer, and a proportional duty for any greater strength.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The Revenue of the Colony for the year 1896 amounted to Rs. 8,849,181, an increase of Rs. 575,559 on the Revenue of the previous year.

The following comparative table shows the actual Revenue derived from principal sources for the past two years, and the average Revenue for the five years 1890 to 1894 :—

——	1895.	1896.	Average for the Five Years 1890–1894.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Customs	2,829,516	3,069,745	2,699,156
Port, Harbour, Wharf, and Light-house Dues.	186,074	203,537	170,873
Licenses, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified.	2,240,184	2,411,477	2,521,534
Fees of Court of Office, Payments for Specific Services and Re-imbursements in Aid.	251,622	245,510	299,880
Post Office and Telegraphs ...	90,037	102,580	74,726
Government Railways	1,752,408	1,784,011	1,608,077
Rents of Government Property	58,319	68,872	54,948
Interest	544,998	538,930	325,473
Miscellaneous Receipts	318,864	422,899	135,698
Land Sales	1,600	1,620	6,008
Total	8,273,622	8,849,181	7,896,361

Of the increase of Rs. 240,229 on the Customs Revenue of the previous year, Rs. 120,542 is attributable to Import Duties, whilst Rs. 119,687 is derived from Export Duties. The total Customs receipts for the year being Rs. 2,562,276 for Import, and Rs. 507,469 for Export Duties.

Sugar, the produce of the Colony, pays an Export Duty of 30 cents.—equivalent at the present time to about 4*d.*—on every 100 kilos. exported ; an additional 2 cents is charged on every 100 kilos. of other sugars exported.

The increase of Rs. 12,000 in the Post and Telegraph receipts over those of the previous year is accounted for by an additional Rs. 10,000 on postage, mainly attributable to the increased rate of postage from the 1st September 1896 on foreign correspondence.

The postage rate was raised from that date from 15 cents to 18 cents the half-ounce, the equivalent of 2½*d.* with the exchange on the rupee at 80 per cent. premium.

The remaining sum of Rs. 2,000 is due to increased telegraphic business.

The large increase under Miscellaneous Receipts during the years 1895 and 1896 over the average receipts for the previous five years is due to the sum of Rs. 216,354, surplus investments of the Commissioners of Currency, having been carried to Revenue during the year 1895 ; whilst in 1896 a sum of Rs. 351,024 was brought to account in like manner. This latter sum was derived from the surplus balances of the sinking fund provided for the redemption of the 6 per cent. debentures under Ordinance No. 15 of 1864, which were paid off during the year.

The Expenditure of the Colony amounted to Rs. 8,544,736, an increase of Rs. 56,000 on the previous year, but Rs. 304,445 within the Revenue of the year.

Without the windfall of Rs. 351,024 just referred to, and brought to account under the head of Miscellaneous Receipts, the expenditure of the year exceeded the actual Revenue by Rs. 46,579.

The principal items of expenditure may be seen on reference to the following table, which shows the expenditure for the past

two years, as well as the average expenditure for the period from the year 1890 to 1894 inclusive :—

——	1895.	1896.	Average for the Five Years 1890–1894.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Charge on account of Public Debt.	628,998	590,947	907,395
Pensions	343,004	362,773	398,696
Establishments	1,052,748	1,043,386	1,976,201
Post and Telegraphs	183,742	205,725	222,898
Judicial Departments	528,439	518,156	523,397
Ecclesiastical	136,954	139,305	140,171
Education	464,272	474,678	463,456
Medical, General Board of Health and Quarantine.	676,116	737,141	843,651
Poor Law	173,380	168,455	182,243
Police	538,641	548,999	478,864
Gaols	173,402	169,900	183,243
Immigration	130,773	122,982	144,345
Miscellaneous, Charitable Allowances, Interest, and Exchange.	451,913	417,147	638,696
Military Expenditure	291,056	388,623	262,483
Railways	1,061,002	1,069,407	1,051,543
Surveyor-General's Department and Public Works.	403,848	524,143	391,029
Loan Board Office and Mare-aux-Vacoas.	15,840	63,453	—
Exchange	1,234,608	1,006,516	—
Total	8,488,736	8,544,736	8,076,239

The Loan Board Office, attached to the office of the Colonial Secretary, was created in 1895 to administer the £400,000, being the portion of the loan of £600,000 guaranteed by the Imperial

Government, set aside to assist planters and householders in respect of damage done to their property by the hurricane of 1892.

The Mare-aux-Vacoas Water Works Staff was established for the first time and shown separately on the Estimates for 1896. Previously the staff and maintenance of the works had been charged to works in course of construction, and paid out of Loan Funds.

The item "Exchange" appearing for the first time in 1895 as a separate item of expenditure, is due to the circumstance that prior to that year the exchange was charged to the several items of the Estimates bearing the original cost of service; but under the present system, the *exchange* on all payments made in England, or in a country with a gold currency is brought to account under one head.

From the above table of Expenditure it will be seen that "Exchange" alone accounts for an eighth of the total expenditure of the Colony.

Assets and Liabilities.

The year 1895 closed with an excess of Expenditure over Revenue to the sum of Rs. 215,114, which was met out of moneys in the Treasury and reduced those moneys to Rs. 1,254,403.

By excess of Revenue over Expenditure during the year 1896, the Treasury funds were increased again to the sum of Rs. 1,487,557, on the 1st January 1897.

Of this sum, Rs. 658,137 were immediately available in cash, the remaining amount representing the following liabilities :—

	Rs.
Miscellaneous Deposits	322,005·16
Family Remittances	18,607·81
Notaries' Deposits	45,971·08
Widows' and Orphans' Fund ...	347,178·07
Treasury Bills	1,420·97
Money Orders...	18,151·06
Hurricane Loan Funds	30,825·42
	Rs.784,159·57

Of the Rs. 347,178 belonging to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, the sum of £14,300 (Rs. 230,945 at 61·50 per cent.) is invested in Colonial Securities.

MAURITIUS. 1896.

The paper money in circulation in Mauritius, consisting of five rupee notes, ten rupee and fifty rupee notes, is alone in the hands of the Government, under the management of Commissioners Currency.

On the 31st December 1896, the Assets and Liabilities of the Commissioners stood as follows :—

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
	Rs.		Rs.
Notes in circulation	3,374,250	Specie in vault ...	1,830,000
Do. vault ...	998,865	Notes do. ...	998,865
	4,373,115	Investments in England, Rupees at par.	1,091,514·79
In favour of Comsioners.	218,546·38	Exchange at 61·50 on same.	671,281·59
Total ... Rs.	4,591,661·38	Total ... Rs.	4,591,661·38

PUBLIC DEBT.

The Public Debt of the Colony on the 31st December 1896, amounted to £1,239,301, a decrease of £37,234 on the previous year. On reference to the following table the original amount of the several loans, the year in which they were raised, and the outstanding debt on each loan on the 31st December, may be seen.

Government Debenture Debt on 31st December 1896.

Object and Year.	Original Loan.	Amount converted.	Balance after conversion.	Redeemed by Annual Drawings.	Present Debt.	Rate of Interest per Annum.	In Bank to meet Annual Drawings.	Sinking Fund invested in England.
	£ s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.	Per cent.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. For the construction of the Savanne Line of Mauritius Railways—1876.	100,000 0 0	33,300	66,700	16,200	50,500 0 0	4½	617 18 5	—
2. For the redemption of 4 per cent. Debentures under Ordinance 10 of 1879.—1879.	314,600 0 0	217,900	96,700	29,800	66,900 0 0	4	724 16 3	—
3. To repay to General Revenues the funds spent for construction of Moka Railway Line, Ordinances 1 and 2 of 1887.—1887.	102,900 0 0	100,000	2,900	400	2,500 0 0	4	59 8 5	—
4. For erecting hospitals and infirmaries—1873.	10,000 0 0	—	—	8,500	1,500 0 0	5	—	—
5. Res: loans raised in England, and to provide for Mauritius Inscribed Stock, Ordinance 1 of 1887.—1888.	480,749 13 0	—	—	—	480,749 13 0	4	—	50,954 0 2
6. To meet the wants created by the hurricane of 1892, &c.—1893.	600,000 0 0	—	—	—	600,000 0 0	3	—	22,875 9 2
7. To provide for the acquisition of certain land in the area destroyed by fire on 23rd July 1893. Treasury Bills at 61·50 exchange.—1895.	37,151 14 0	—	—	—	37,151 14 0	4	19 19 3	—
Totals ... ... £	1,645,401 7 0	351,200	—	46,400	1,239,301 7 0	—	1,422 2 4	73,829 9 4

MAURITIUS. 1896.

The reduction of the Public Debt by £37,234 is arrived at as follows :—

	£
Redemption of Mauritius Railway 6 per cent. Debentures under Ordinance No. 15 of 1864	36,900
Annual Drawings :—	
Savanne Railway 4½ per cent Debenture	1,200
Moka „ 4 „ „	100
Consolidated 4 „ „	1,400
Poor Law Comm. 5 „ „	500
	£40,100
From which deduct on account of increase under Treasury Bills	2,866
Leaving	£37,234

as the net reduction of the Public Debt.

MUNICIPAL AND OTHER LOCAL BODIES.

The financial position of the Municipal Corporation of Port Louis, the only Port of Entry, and principal town of the Island, may be gathered from the following statement :—

—.	1895.	1896.
	Rs.	Rs.
Balance on hand on 1st January ...	22,728·92	4,761·87
Revenue and Receipts on account ...	474,261·56	592,239·82
	496,990·48	597,001·69
Expenditure and Payments on account	492,228·61	587,490·93
Balance on hand on 31st December...	4,761·87	9,510·76

Debenture Debt at end of year :—

——	1895.	1896.
	£	£
Conversion Loan	134,400	133,400
	Rs.	Rs.
Colonial Loan, 1889	109,200	106,470
Hurricane Government Loan... ...	138,756	140,093
Colonial Loan, 1894	21,395	14,905
Total ... ... Rs.	269,351	261,468

Military Expenditure.

The strength of the garrison on the 31st December 1896, was 959 men, made up of—Staff Officers 8, Royal Artillery 365, Royal Engineers 69, 2nd Battalion York and Lancashire Regiment 496, Army Service 2, Ordnance Store 17, and Medical Staff Corps 10.

The total Military Expenditure was £63,906, of which the Colony contributed £20,250, compared with £53,859 and £14,906 respectively in 1895.

Imports and Exports.

The Imports for the year, including charges and exchange, and also including Rs. 2,520,876 in specie and bullion, amounted to Rs. 32,194,409, an increase of Rs. 1,687,839 on the Imports of 1895.

The Imports for the years 1895 and 1896, valued with charges and exchange, were received from—

——	1895.	1896.
	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	5,854,226·26	7,412,771·36
British Possessions	17,725,453·14	18,055,073·65
Foreign Countries	6,926,891·56	6,726,564·59
Total ... Rs.	30,506,570·96	32,194,409·60

MAURITIUS, 1896.

The following shows the classification of the total Imports for the past two years, exclusive of charges and exchange :—

——	1895.	1896.
	Rs.	Rs.
Live animals, Food, Drink and Narcotics.	13,643,669·03	12,824,595·24
Raw Materials :—		
1. Textile	1,474	8,127
2. Metal	4,074·20	2,070
3. Other	388,794·92	422,403·67
Manufactured Articles :—		
1. Textile	2,030,215·38	2,230,177·71
2. Metal	615,604·08	805,099·95
3. Other	3,441,570·42	3,671,9[illegible]2·47
	20,125,402·03	19,964,436·04
Coin, Bullion and Specie of all kinds.	662,250·30	2,537,026
Total ... Rs.	20,787,652·33	22,501,462·04

The average value of the Imports for the five years 1890 to 1894, less charges and exchange, is Rs. 19,980,956.

The Imports for 1895 and 1896, compared with those of the previous five years, were drawn from the following countries, the values being shown exclusive of charges and exchange :—

——	1895.	1896.	Average for the Five Years 1890–1894.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	2,802,316	3,855,229	3,9[illegible]4,474
British Possessions :—			
Australasia	643,174	578,324	965,231
Continental India	13,024,783	13,749,974	10,455,449
Seychelles	241,783	190,295	234,423
Singapore	260,591	177,635	216,805
Miscellaneous	299,383	241,409	599,938
	14,469,714	14,937,637	12,471,846
Total carried forward ...	17,272,030	18,792,866	16,456,320

—	1895.	1894.	Average for the Five Years 1890–1894.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Total brought forward ...	17,272,030	18,792,866	16,456 320
Foreign Countries :—			
France	1,801, 90	2,154,651	2,047,826
Germany	67,056	108,810	126,801
Madagascar	159,035	214,111	401,129
Reunion	143.542	117,204	147,882
China	178,903	243,446	34,522
Pondicherry	182,854	193,477	244,498
United States	388,436	318,191	181,585
Miscellaneous	593,906	358,706	340,387
	3,515,622	3,708,596	3,524,632
Grand total ... Rs.	20,787,652	22,501,462	19,980,952

EXPORTS.

The value of the total Exports of the Colony during 1896, exceeded the Exports of the previous year by over Rs. 2,420,000, whilst the value of the export of produce and manufacture of the Colony alone, exceeded the like export of the previous year by Rs. 4,310,000, as may be seen on reference to the following table :—

—	1895.	1896.
	Rs.	Rs.
Produce and Manufacture of the Colony.	24,751,037	29,061,141
Shipping charges on same ...	1,732,987	2,055,839
British, Foreign, and other Colonial Produce and Manufacture.	2,496,598	2,408,874
Specie and Bullion	2,548,679	423,760
Total ... Rs.	31,529,301	33,949,614

MAURITIUS. 1896.

The following table shows the total Exports, produce and manufacture of the Colony for last year, compared with 1895 and the average for the five years 1890-94. From this table it will be seen that products of sugar-cane represent 98·10 per cent. of the Exports :—

—	1895.	Per-centage of Exports.	1896.	Per-centage of Exports.	Average for the Five Years 1890–1894.	Per-centage of Exports.
	Rs.		Rs.		Rs.	
Sugar	23,515,058	95·00	28,165,731	96·92	21,525,842	95·25
Rum	290,394	1·18	250,821	0·86	311,332	1·38
Molasses	73,564	0·30	91,914	0·32	136,415	0·60
	23,879,016	96·48	28,508,466	98·10	21,973,589	97·23
Vanilla	217,944	0·88	120,625	0·43	156,090	0·69
Aloe fibre ...	406,736	1·64	253,326	0·87	364,360	1·61
Cocoanut oil ...	83,251	0·34	25,937	0·08	18,939	0·08
Hides	35,818	0·14	25,538	0·08	13,281	0·06
Soap	62,376	0·25	29,779	0·10	8,175	0·04
Miscellaneous ...	65,896	0·27	97,470	0·34	64,458	0·29
Total ... Rs.	24,751,037	—	29,061,141	—	22,598,892	—

The following table shows the quantity of sugar, rum and molasses, produce of the Colony, exported during 1895 and 1896 and the average for the five years 1890-94 :—

Year.	Sugar.	Rum.	Molasses.
	Tons.	Litres.	Kilos.
1895	116,454	3,024,583	9,808,490
1896	153,575	2,251,346	8,553,050
Average 1890 to 1894	114,035	3,113,686	5,395,269

To trace the Exports, the produce and manufacture of the Colony, to the several markets, the following table will serve as a guide :—

——	1895.	1896.	Average for the Five Years 1890–1894.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	1,110,454	270,740	2,694,288
British Possessions :—			
Australasia	2,986,844	3,414,135	3,669,040
Cape Colonies	3,873,867	4,965,493	2,303,592
Ceylon	3,985,504	5,069,212	1,317.836
Continental India	10,377,898	11,373,961	10,814,880
Hong Kong	302,478	341,885	169,228
Natal	—	—	33,511
New Zealand	—	671,210	89,353
St. Helena	—	—	70,421
Miscellaneous	230,112	160,659	167,436
	21,756,703	25,996,555	18,635,297
Foreign Countries :—			
France	325,748	252,689	361,632
Portugal...	—	—	139,884
Delagoa Bay	—	275,648	—
Madagascar	401,882	332,967	309,765
Zanzibar...	—	—	25,830
United States	990,058	1,784,419	367,258
Miscellaneous	166,192	148.123	64,938
	1,883,880	2,793,846	1 269,307
Grand total ... Rs.	24,751,037	29,061,141	22,598,892

MAURITIUS. 1896.

We have these results before us that whilst the Imports from the United Kingdom during 1896 were over Rs. 1,000,000 in excess of those of 1895, and show but little falling off compared with the average for the five years 1890-94, the Exports from Mauritius to the United Kingdom have decreased in value from Rs. 2,690,000, the average for the five years 1890-94, to Rs. 1,110,454 in 1895 and to the still lower figure of Rs. 270,000 during last year.

Continental India is the single market from which the bulk of our supplies is received, and to which a very large percentage of the produce of the Colony is shipped.

For convenient reference, the following table shows side by side the value of Imports from the United Kingdom, British Possessions and Foreign Countries, and Exports, produce and manufacture of the Colony, thereto for 1895, last year, and the average for the five years 1890-94.

—	Imports.			Exports.		
	1895.	1896.	Average for the five years 1890–1894.	1895.	1896.	Average for the five years 1890–1894.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	2,802,317	3,855,229	3,984,474	1,110,154	270,740	2,694,288
British Possessions :—						
Continental India	13,024,784	13,749,974	10,455,450	10,377,898	11,373,961	10,814,880
Miscellaneous	1,444,930	1,187,663	2,016,396	11,378,805	14,622,594	7,820,417
Foreign Countries	3,515,621	3,708,596	3,524,632	1,883,880	2,793,846	1,269,307
Total .. Rs.	20,787,652	22,501,462	19,980,952	24,751,037	29,061,141	22,598,892

MAURITIUS. 1896.

SHIPPING.

As a result of the increase in Exports during 1896, the total shipping tonnage rose from 687,014 tons in 1895 to 782,827 during the past year, as compared with 633,751 the average tonnage for the previous five years.

The following table shows the number and tonnage of vessels, both steam and sailing, entered and cleared during the above periods. It will be seen from this table that the number of steamships is gradually on the increase, whilst that of the sailing vessels is on the decrease :—

—	1895.		1896.		Average for the Five Years 1890–1894.	
ENTERED.						
Ships ... Steam	144	344	172	391	148	387
Sailing	200		219		239	
Tonnage ... Steam	240,560		282,990		210.534	
Sailing	105,946		111,381		105,785	
		346,506		394,371		316,319
CLEARED.						
Ships ... Steam	144	338	172	387	148	389
Sailing	194		215		241	
Tonnage ... Steam	238,039		281,127		210,438	
Sailing	102,469		107,329		106,994	
		340,508		388,456		317,432
Total Shipping Tonnage.		687,014		782,827		633,751

The shipping, according to nationality, was—

—	1895.		1896.		Average for the five years 1890–1894.	
	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.
British	465	495,457	492	544,252	541	444,913
American ...	—	—	6	6,018	5	3,887
Belgian	—	—	2	3,972	1	999
Danish	2	1,294	13	5,005	2	792
French	158	160,220	160	163,182	146	144,240
German	25	9,903	60	27,762	41	18,957
Italian	4	3,212	4	3,910	2	1,547
Norwegian ...	28	16,928	36	26,001	22	11,238
Swedish	—	—	5	2,725	6	2,740
Miscellaneous ...	—	—	—	—	10	4,438
Total ...	682	687,014	778	782,827	776	633,751

VITAL STATISTICS.

With an area of no more than 705 square miles, the population of the Colony on the 31st December, 1896, was estimated at 375,955 (206,841 males and 169,114 females), a small increase of 5,367 on the population of the Island arrived at by the Census of 1891.

The general population numbered 60,120 males and 56,077 females—together 116,197 ; whilst the resident Indian population was 146,721 males, and 113,037 females—together 259,758.

The registered births numbered 11,518 during the year; general population 3,598—Indian 7,920—the rate on the total population being 30·5 per thousand, a decrease of 6·6 per thousand on the rate of the previous year.

The registered deaths numbered 15,843 during the year ; 4,980 general population—10,863 Indian—giving the excessively high rate of 41·90 per thousand compared with 29·0 per thousand in 1894. The death rate last year is the highest since the great fever epidemic of 1868 ; its cause may be attributed to deaths from Diarrhœa, Dysentery, Fever alone accounting for 8,181, and Influenza.

The causes of death, as recorded, may be seen on reference to the following table :—

Causes.	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 of Population.
Zymotic diseases	11,091	29·33
Parasitic	16	·04
Dietetic	15	·04
Constitutional	563	1·49
Developmental	191	·50
Local	2,638	6·98
Violent and accidental	125	·33
Ill-defined and unspecified ...	1,204	3·19
Total	15,843	41·90

MAURITIUS. 1896.

The average death rate of the Colony for the years 1871 to 1890 was 30·2.

The most unhealthy months of the year 1896 were March, April and May, when the deaths were over 100 per cent. more than during the three months September, October, and November.

SAVINGS BANK.

The savings deposited in the Government Savings Bank at 3½ per cent. interest amounted to Rs. 3,004,495 on the 31st December 1896, compared with Rs. 3,174,043 on the 31st December of the previous year. Although the sum total of deposits was Rs. 170,000 less than that of the previous year, there were exactly 600 more depositors, making 23,927 in all.

Of the number of depositors 10,527 were of the Indian population, with a sum of Rs. 1,439,224 standing to their credit,—the remaining depositors, of the general population.

Investments on account of the Bank in 2¾ Consols and Colonial and Indian inscribed Stock amounted on the 31st December 1896 to—

		Rs.
In Rupees at par (£242,594 18*s.* 4*d.*)	...	2,425,949
Exchange at 61·50 on same... ...	...	1,491,958
		3,917,907
To which add cash in hand	...	22,234
The total assets of the Bank amounting to	Rs.	3,940,141

	Rs.
To the liabilities of the bank, in addition to the sum standing to the credit of depositors ...	3,004,495
must be added ready money advances made by the Colony	339,607
	Rs. 3,344,102

leaving a balance in favour of the Bank of Rs. 596,039 on the 31st December 1896.

EDUCATION.

There were 181 primary schools in operation during the year—82 Government Schools and 99 State-aided Schools. The average number of pupils on roll was, in the Government Schools, 9,336,

and in the State-aided Schools 8,871, together 18,207 pupils, a decrease of 72 on the previous year. The cost to Government of each pupil on the roll was, in the Government Schools, Rs. 16·35 and in the Aided Schools, Rs. 11·61 ; the total cost of primary education amounting to Rs. 305,450 for the year.

The Royal College, at a cost of Rs. 204,739 for last year, provides for the secondary education of the Colony. To the Royal College are attached the two preparatory schools at Curepipe and Port Louis.

The average number of pupils attending the Royal College during 1896 was 209, whilst there were 220 on the books of the schools.

Railways, Roads.

The Railway system of the Island—a single line 4 feet 8½ inches gauge, 105 miles, and constructed at a total cost of £828,656—is the property of the Government.

During the year the receipts were—Passenger Traffic Rs. 1,018,361, Sugar Rs. 352,239, Goods Rs. 317,133, and Miscellaneous receipts Rs. 36,278, making the total receipts Rs. 1,784,011 ; whilst the expenditure on account of working expenses amounted to Rs. 1,165,454, leaving a balance of Rs. 618,557 to meet expenditure on account of interest and sinking fund of the Railway Debenture Debt.

On the 1st January 1896 this Debenture Debt stood at £694,616, which was reduced to £657,716 by payment of the outstanding 6 per cent. Railway debentures under Ordinance No. 15 of 1864.

But on the 1st January 1897 the Railway Debenture Debt had been increased to £667,656 by further expenditure on account of the Moka line extension, and represented the total Railway Debenture Debt at that date.

The charge on account of interest and sinking fund during the year amounted to Rs. 565,224, leaving a surplus of Rs. 53,333 in favour of the Railway, which has been included in the general Revenue of the Colony for the past year.

The 370 miles of Main Roads in the Island were maintained by Government at a cost of Rs. 244,300. No new roads were constructed during the year.

Meteorology.

During the past year the Island was visited by a cyclone in February, lasting three days, more remarkable, however, by the heavy rains which accompanied it than by the force of its winds.

MAURITIUS. 1896.

On the 20th, when the wind rose to its greatest velocity of 51·3 miles an hour, rain fell to the extent of 17·34 inches in the 24 hours, causing damage to property, cultivation, roads and bridges.

The mean hourly velocity of the wind throughout the year was 11 miles, the average for the last twenty-one years.

At the Royal Alfred Observatory, which is about three miles from the West Coast of the Island, and stands on a plain 179 feet above sea-level, the recorded rainfall for the year was 68·17 inches, 18·58 inches above the average for the past twenty-one years. After the floods in February heavy rains fell again in May, followed by severe drought from September to December, when no more than 3·75 inches of rain fell, 6·18 inches less than the average during those months for the previous twenty years.

GENERAL.

The urgent representations from time to time made to the Secretary of State by the several sugar-growing Colonies in the British West Indies, as to their extremely critical condition owing to unremunerative prices caused by over-production of beet sugar, which led to the appointment last year of the West India Royal Commission to enquire into the cause of the depression in the cane-sugar industry, were not without similar representations from this Colony. The Report of the Royal Commission and the action Her Majesty's Government may take to ameliorate their lot are as anxiously awaited by this Colony as by any Colony of Her Majesty in the West.

The cause for that anxiety as far as this Colony is concerned is not far to seek. With a population of over 530 to the square mile—a veritable hive—dependent entirely on the agricultural resources of the Colony, with over 98 per cent. of those resources the produce of sugar-cane, and with no alternative industry in view, or, may be, possible, Mauritius may truly be said to be a garden of sugar; the market return for its sole product, the slender thread on which hang the life and future of the Colony.

Up to the present time it does not appear that it can be said that as a sugar-producing Colony, Mauritius has suffered to the extreme extent from the bounty fed sugars of some of the foreign countries, or that she has been brought to the brink of ruin from this or other causes, as have her sister sugar-producing Colonies in the West. The Colony has, without doubt, severely felt the depression in the sugar market, and although the Colony is not by any means out of the wood, yet it has so far enjoyed the advantage not only of the near and ready market of India, but also the somewhat hidden palliative in the low exchange on its silver currency. Agricultural labour being remunerated in rupee. depreciation of silver currency is not to the great disadvantage of the employer as might at first sight appear.

But last year the planter of the Colony was less fortunate than in previous years ; not only did he suffer by the further reduction in the price of sugar, but he had also to face the drop in the exchange on the rupee. On account of the rise in the value of the rupee in the course of the year, larger shipments of beet sugar were tempted to the Indian market, and at times so overstocked was that market, and so low the prices, that the trade of Mauritius with India became paralysed. Fortunately, however, the value of the rupee dropped again, the exchange rose and trade revived.

The activity of the Colony, threatened during the past year by the several adversities referred to, may, it is not out of place to remark, be considered as having been contributed to by the immigrant from the all but parent continent of India, who gradually, and year by year in number increasing, becomes possessed of lands parcelled out into lots, which the small proprietor is himself able to cultivate.

It is not an uncommon thing to find the labourer, after earning his wage on the sugar estate during the day, returning in the afternoon to his hut to turn to, in the cool of the evening, on the patch of land of which he has, by his own industry, become possessed and which he has under cultivation.

But a few years ago the whole of the sugar industry in Mauritius was owned and carried on by the large sugar estates of the Island ; estimates of to-day unfold figures showing that of the total crop of the Island for last year—outnumbering 152,000 tons of sugar—three-fourths belong to the estates of old, one-fourth the property of the small proprietor.

By some these figures are considered as underestimated. That of last year's crop—100,000 tons—represented the produce of the large sugar estates, whilst the small proprietors sent 50,000 tons to the mill. But no reliable information can be obtained on the subject, and it is sufficient to show the stake the small proprietor has acquired in the Island to be content by accepting the lower, and perhaps more accurate, estimate of one-fourth of last year's crop as his.

In a measure, therefore, may the unprecedented crop of 1896 be attributed not only to the more fruitful yield of the soil, but also to the result of acquisition of sugar lands by the Indian, who is ever thrifty, and who it cannot be said is blind to his own interest.

To trace this transitional state of the Colony, it can be foreseen that central factories are rapidly becoming necessities at no remote date, and that, whilst it is not improbable the greater portion of the cultivation of the Island may, in the near future, be transferred to the small proprietor, the manufacture of his

MAURITIUS. 1896.

crop will be at the central mill. So far has this already been realized that last year one of the larger sugar estates of the Island, an estate of 1,500 acres, finding it no longer sufficiently profitable to hold out against low prices, offered its lands for sale in small patches to suit the small man, retaining but a few acres and the factory for the manufacture of sugar cultivated in its neighbourhood. The lands have been readily taken up, and the estate, about to start its mill under the changed condition, commences a new era in the Colony's history.

Of other industries there is but little to record. Aloe-fibre, but a few years ago considered an industry of much promise, to-day has, by unremunerative prices, become reduced to a low ebb, so low that less than 1 per cent. of the Exports represents its position in the Colony's struggle.

The climate and soil of the Island are all that can be desired for the cultivation of vanilla. Turning to statistics of fifteen years ago, it will be seen that the average annual export of this product during the five years 1880 to 1884 was 39,900 lbs., valued at Rs. 366,500. But with an export of no more than 7,690 lbs., valued at Rs. 120,625 during last year, one is led to the conclusion that, notwithstanding its increased value, the cultivation of vanilla now only represents the investment of a few rather than a labour to be seriously classed amongst the industries of the Colony.

DOUGLAS YOUNG,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Mauritius, 13th August, 1897.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 223.

RODRIGUES.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1896.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 183.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

January 1898.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1897.

[C.—8650-21.] *Price* 1*d*.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
194	Zululand	1896
195	Gambia	,,
196	Malta	,,
197	British New Guinea	1895–96
198	Turks and Caicos Islands...	1896
199	Barbados	,,
200	Leeward Islands	1895
201	Trinidad and Tobago	1896
202	Gibraltar	,,
203	Fiji (Trade)...	,,
204	Straits Settlements	1895
205	Do. do.	1896
206	Falkland Islands	,,
207	British Honduras	,,
208	Sierra Leone	,,
209	Grenada	,,
210	Hong Kong...	,,
211	St. Lucia	,,
212	St. Vincent	,,
213	St. Helena	,,
214	Seychelles	,,
215	Mauritius	,,
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1897
217	Fiji	1896
218	Ceylon	,,
219	Lagos	,,
220	Gold Coast	,,
221	Labuan	,,
222	British Guiana	1896–97

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.

No. 223.

RODRIGUES.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 183 of this Series.)

GOVERNOR SIR CHARLES BRUCE to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Mauritius,
14th October 1897.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Report on the Rodrigues Blue Book by Mr. Colin, the Magistrate, for the year 1896.

I have &c.,

CHARLES BRUCE, *Governor.*

REPORT ON THE RODRIGUES BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1896.

REVENUE.

The Revenue of the year (exclusive of Customs and sums received in Mauritius) amounted to Rs. 8,309·64, and the Revenue of 1895 to Rs. 10,372·00, showing a decrease of Rs. 2,062·36.

Licenses, Dog Tax, Pasturage Fees, Land Rent, Forest Produce, Fines, and Land Sales were the principal heads of revenue.

15224*—75—12/97 Wt 20613 D & S—5 (B)

EXPENDITURE.

The payments made in 1896 (not including sums paid in Mauritius and matters of account) amounted to Rs. 24,469·63, and the expenditure of 1895 (not including sums paid in Mauritius and matters of account) to Rs. 23,092·00, showing an increase of Rs. 1,377·63.

The ratio of the revenue to the population of 1896 was Rs. 3·15 and a fraction per head. The ratio of the expenditure was Rs. 9·32 and a fraction per head.

JUDICIAL.

Criminal Side.

The most common charges were for breach of forest and fishing laws, larceny, assault, abusive language, and possession of stolen property.

——	1895.	1896.
Number of informations filed (including applications for search warrants).	69	65
Number of adjudications	40	37
„ „ cases abandoned	13	11
„ „ persons convicted	37	46
„ „ persons acquitted	11	15
„ „ cases pending	18	2

Civil Side.

——	1895.	1896
Number of cases entered	49	99
Applications for warrants to levy, and provisional seizure warrants.	6	7

Most of the plaints entered were for damages and claims for amounts due on goods sold and delivered.

Stipendiary Side.

—	1895.	1896.
Number of cases	9	9
„ „ engagements	6	8
„ „ discharges	9	4

The total number of all cases of all jurisdictions was 133 in 1895, and 173 in 1896. The amount of fines paid was Rs. 550·91.

The Court revenue was Rs. 959·38 and the expenditure Rs. 262·78.

The Chief Officer of Police is the usher of the Court.

Post Office.

The revenue collected for postage labels sold, unpaid letters, and money order commission was Rs. 248·41 in 1895, and Rs. 323·18 in 1896.

The letters received were 2,265 in 1896, and 1,354 in 1895. Newspapers 750 in 1896, and 889 in 1895.

The money orders drawn on Mauritius amounted to Rs.26,084·82 in 1895, and to Rs. 29,894·40 in 1896.

Orders drawn on Rodrigues amounted to Rs. 5,017·77 in 1896, against Rs. 4,455·16 in 1895.

Crown Lands and Forests.

Land Rent.

—	1895.	1896.
The number of acres leased at Rs. 2 to cultivators amounted to—	666	630
The fishing posts numbered	54	65
„ islands were let for ... ... Rs.	85	40·25
„ towns lots leased were	12	14
„ number of lessees was	356	408

The total revenue actually received under the heading of Land Rent (including fishing posts, town lots, and islands and other leases) amounted to Rs. 2,135·50, against Rs. 1,903 in 1895.

Pasturage.

In 1896, there were 1,942 goats and 160 head of cattle declared. The Pasturage Fees received during the year amounted to Rs.319·55, against Rs. 1,433·20 in 1895.

Forest Produce.

The revenue derived from forest produce amounted to Rs. 260·14 in 1896, against Rs. 414·18 in 1895.

LAND SALES.

The amount received during the year under this heading was Rs. 490·50.

WIDOWS AND ORPHANS' FUND.

The sums paid by the subscribers during the year amounted to Rs. 355·38.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

There are two Roman Catholic chapels at Rodrigues : one at Port Mathurin, and the other at St. Gabriel. The expenditure under this heading was Rs. 4,344·28 in 1895, against Rs.1,999·92 in 1896. The Catechist of the Church of England officiates at the Government School of Port Mathurin.

MEDICAL.

The number of patients maintained in the public hospital of Mount Lubin was 63 in 1895, and 93 in 1896.

In 1895 medical care was given to 2,617 persons at both dispensaries (Port Mathurin and Mount Lubin), and 2,484 in 1896.

In 1895 seven deaths occurred at the hospital of Mount Lubin, and nine in 1896.

The prevailing diseases were dysentery, worms, and rheumatism, bronchitis, influenza, abscesses, &c.

In 1895 103 children were vaccinated, and 175 in 1896.

No hospital fee is exacted.

The total expenditure was Rs. 3,701·74 in 1896, against Rs. 4,277·07 in 1895.

The rice given to the hospital servant to complete his rations is sent from Mauritius.

EDUCATION.

In 1896 there were two schools in operation at Rodrigues. The expenses thereof are paid by Government.

Books &c. (sent from Mauritius) were sold to the pupils to the amount of Rs. 80·38 in 1896, against Rs. 103·61 in 1895.

The cost of both schools amounted to Rs. 2,500·81 in 1896, against Rs. 2,327·37 in 1895. The annual cost to Government for each pupil inscribed in 1896 was Rs. 18·12.

With the exception of a few pupils, all are Roman Catholic. There are no Protestants in St. Gabriel's School.

GAOL.

Thirty-eight persons were committed to gaol in 1896, and 19 in 1895.

The Chief Police Officer is the keeper of the gaol, and the constables act as prison guard.

WATER SUPPLY.

Under this heading a sum of Rs. 681·25 has been spent specially for salary of a pipe-layer sent from Mauritius, and for assistance given to him by different persons employed as masons, &c.

METEOROLOGICAL.

The Chief Officer of Police took daily observations, which have been transmitted to the Director of the Royal Alfred Observatory at Mauritius.

						n. Th.
Highest temperature (indoors)		15th March,	1896,	3 p.m.,		89. 08
Lowest	„	„	17th July,	1896,	9 a.m.,	67. 07
						n. Bar.
Highest barometer	„		27th Aug.,	1896,	9 a.m.,	30. 448
Lowest	„	„	25th Jan.,	1896,	11 a.m.,	28. 574

RODRIGUES. 1896.

Heaviest rainfall in 24 hours from 9 a.m. 9th to 9 a.m. 10th May 1896, 4 inches, 9 lines.

The month of January was the month in which there were the heaviest rainfalls—the rain gauge marked 18 inches, 88½ lines. A most violent hurricane visited the island in January 1896.

LEGISLATION.

Regulation No. 1 of 1896.—To make provision for the sale and lease of Crown lands and the lease of Pas Géométriques at Rodrigues.

2. Amended Regulation.—Money order business between Rodrigues and Mauritius.

3. Regulation No. 2 of 1896.—To prohibit the cultivation of gandia in Rodrigues.

4. Ordinance No. 4 of 1896.—To legalize certain acts of the Civil Status drawn up in Rodrigues, and to authorize the Chief Officer of Police to act as Civil Status Officer in certain cases.

5. Regulation No. 3 of 1896.—To provide for the maintenance of order and regularity amongst shipping at Rodrigues.

These were the only laws enacted during the year 1896.

POOR LAW.

15 males and 8 females were provided for in 1895, and 16 males and 8 females in 1896.

POPULATION.

The population on the 31st December 1896, was composed of 2,635 inhabitants, consisting of natives of this island, of Mauritius, Madagascar, India, China, Europe, Seychelles, and Réunion, who are traders, agriculturists, and fishermen.

Number of births in 1896	164
„ „ arrivals „	107
„ „ deaths „	38
„ „ departures „	138

The births number 24 more than in 1895, and the deaths 71 less.

Thirteen marriages were celebrated in 1895, and twenty in 1896.

SHIPPING.

The number of ships which arrived and left Rodrigues during 1896 was 11.

The service between Rodrigues and Mauritius was performed in six trips by the subventioned British schooner "Columbus." The barks "Lavina," "Ione," and the schooner "Venus" made five trips for trading purposes.

H.M.S. "Bonaventure" visited the Island in July 1896.

EXPORTS.

The exports (exclusive of specie) amounted to Rs. 169,449 in 1895, and to Rs. 103,181·25 in 1896.

The ratio of export per head was Rs. 66·71 in 1895, and Rs. 39·15 in 1896.

IMPORTS.

The imports amounted to Rs. 154,886·50 in 1896, against Rs. 137,773·56 in 1895.

The ratio of import per head was Rs. 58·78, against Rs. 54·24 in 1895.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The tobacco plantations have greatly decreased in 1896 on account of the tax imposed for the exportation thereof. The crops of beans and other plantations of the Island have greatly suffered on account of a cyclone which caused great damage in January 1896. There was another cyclone in February of the same year.

Although a good path has been made from Port Mathurin to St. Gabriel, much remains to be done to have proper roads in this Island.

The inhabitants of Port Mathurin have been able to enjoy the advantages of having good water about the middle of last year, but the works were not completed at the end of the year.

The jetty (although not constructed as recommended by the Government Engineer) has been extended, and proves a great advantage to the inhabitants.

Mr. Frederic Robert, Junior, replaced the titular magistrate from the 13th December 1895, to the 21st November 1896.

R. H. COLIN.

Magistrate.

1st April 1897.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 1-3, Gt. St. Thomas Apostle, E.C.

1897.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 213.

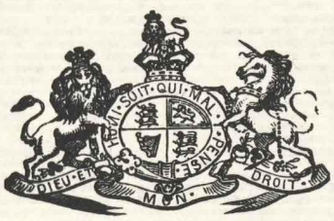
ST. HELENA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1896.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 176.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

October, 1897.



LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE;
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1897.

[C.—8650.-11.] *Price* 1*d*.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
183	Mauritius and Rodrigues	1894 and 1895
184	British Honduras	1895
185	Lagos	„
186	Basutoland	1895–96
187	Ceylon	1895
188	British Guiana	1895–96
189	Gold Coast	1895
190	Jamaica	1895–96
191	Canada	1895
192	Bermuda	1896
193	Bahamas...	„
194	Zululand	„
195	Gambia	„
196	Malta	„
197	British New Guinea	1895–96
198	Turks and Caicos Islands	1896
199	Barbados	„
200	Leeward Islands	1895
201	Trinidad and Tobago	1896
202	Gibraltar	„
203	Fiji (Trade)	„
204	Straits Settlements	1895
205	Do. do.	1896
206	Falkland Islands	„
207	British Honduras	„
208	Sierra Leone	„
209	Grenada	„
210	Hong Kong	„
211	St. Lucia	„
212	St. Vincent	„

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.

No. 213.

ST. HELENA.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 176 of this Series).

GOVERNOR GREY WILSON to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

The Castle, St. Helena,

1st April, 1897.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of this Island for the year 1896.

As this is the last St. Helena Blue Book upon which I shall report, I propose making a somewhat more general survey than is usual.

My administration of the Government of the Island extends to very nearly ten years, and embraces the whole of the period of the Island's greatest depression, I might almost say prostration.

Only Governor Janisch's term of office has exceeded 10 years, and the only previous instance of a Governor being translated from St. Helena was when Colonel Gore Browne, C.B. was appointed in 1854 Governor of New Zealand.

The returns for 1896 happily exhibit no cessation of the gradual recovery of the last few years, although the revenue in 1896 fell somewhat below that of the previous year, in which a considerable sum was received from the sale of obsolete stamps.

The return Appendix A. shows that in 1891 the Revenue fell to the lowest recorded point, and that in 1892 the first surplus for 10 years marked that change in the tide of our financial condition that has since been maintained without interruption.

Notwithstanding the very serious nature of the depression through which the Island has passed, the liquidation of the heavy debt has been steadily continued and completed, the requirements of the very heavy pension list have been punctually

14663*—75—9/97 Wt 20613 D & S—5 (B)

ST. HELENA. 1896.

met; and the Government has faithfully and efficiently discharged the ever increasing demands which modern development and progress have made upon it. I cannot too gratefully acknowledge the services rendered, under very trying circumstances, to the Island and to me, by the Civil servants.

REVENUE.

The chief source of revenue is the Custom House. Thirty years ago the yield under this head was close upon £16,000, and last year it yielded £4,807.

During this period there has been no change in the dues, which are as follows :—

	s.	*d.*
Tobacco per lb. unmanufactured - -	0	6
„ „ manufactured - -	1	0
Spirits per gallon - - - -	10	0
Beer 36 gallons - - - -	12	8
Wine per gallon - - - -	2	6

On all other goods a wharfage equal to about 4 per cent *ad valorem* is levied, but as the wharves and cranes are entirely maintained at Government expense this impost cannot be regarded as a tax, and should be viewed in the light of a Dock Company's Revenue.

The financial recovery of the last few years has been in spite of the almost entire disappearance of the vessel in distress—from which source prior to 1889 a considerable annual revenue could be relied on.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The value of the imports was £30,950, and of the exports £4,739 including £3,993 in specie.

The decline in the price of whale oil has caused the withdrawal of the American whaling fleet.

This, though probably only a temporary one, is not the less a serious blow, as the whaling fleet gives employment to a considerable number of Islanders and spends large sums of money on Island produce.

The export of potatoes to the Cape was satisfactory and remunerative.

The Customs duties collected during the year shew an increase on previous years in the quantities of wine, beer, spirits, and tobacco.

The figures are—

Year.	Wine.	Spirits.	Beer.		Tobacco.
			Hhds.	Doz.	
	Gallons.	Gallons.			lbs.
1891	6,088	1,489	164	212	5,923
1892	6,387	1,688	301	273	7,595
1893	7,318	2,068	366	1,603	6,453
1894	7,187	1,931	173	234	7,067
1895	5,859	2,163	326	652	6,442
1896	6,912	2,191	402	863	7,700

The Shipping and Revenue and Expenditure Returns for the last 30 years (*see* Appendices A and B) show how continuous was the decline of the Island from the fictitiously inflated times of the East India Company's administration of the Island.

So long as the Garrison maintained was in the proportion of about 1 soldier to every 10 inhabitants, no extreme pressure was felt, but it was impossible for the reduction of the large executive, which even the halcyon days could not justify, to be carried out without a dangerous straining of the financial position.

The retrenchments were never made in anticipation of the decline, but only as the result of the financial difficulties resulting from the effects of such decline, and they consequently always failed to afford any adequate relief. For it must be borne in mind that the reduction of the establishment meant the swelling of the Pension List which, as will be seen from Appendix D, reached inordinate dimensions, and the undue proportions of this expenditure, the greater part of which went to non-residents, was for very many years and still is, to a smaller extent, a heavy drain upon the resources of the Island.

The Pension List continues to defy the laws long since ascertained and laid down by Actuaries. Our four oldest pensioners were born respectively in 1798, 1802, 1809, and 1810, and I am glad to be able to report continue to enjoy excellent health.

That the Pension List, *see* Appendix C, has been and is a serious drain upon the limited revenue—of which it absorbed

ST. HELENA. 1896.

nearly one quarter in 1896—cannot be denied; but as it is, so far as the Government are concerned, an irreducible quantity, provision must continue to be made for it at the expense of the existing civil establishment.

PUBLIC DEBT.

The whole of the £19,500 borrowed by the Government between the years 1868 and 1872, at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, has been repaid.

In addition to that sum the Imperial Parliament lent the Colony, in 1871-72, a sum of £5,158, free of interest, and this sum has not yet been repaid.

The expenditure has now been brought well within the revenue, and I do not anticipate that it will again exceed it.

The sum borrowed by the Government and the grants in aid from the Imperial Exchequer, were expended upon the repair of public buildings and to make good the deficiency of the revenue to meet the normal current expenditure. No public works of a remunerative nature have ever been undertaken in St. Helena, and although it would no doubt be legitimate to raise money for such a purpose as the renewal of the water service, so that the cost should fall, in part, upon those who derive benefit hereafter therefrom, yet happily this service can be more than adequately met from extraordinary revenue.

The excess of assets over liabilities on the 31st of December, 1896, was very nearly sufficient to repay the Imperial loan of £5,158, and the waterworks scheme, now ripe for execution at a cost of about £2,400, can be most legitimately defrayed from the sale of obsolete postage stamps, which I have recently sent home to the value of £8,447.

After providing for these services there should, at the close of 1897, be a balance in hand of at least 6,000*l.*, which, in my opinion, should be invested as the nucleus of a Reserve Fund to meet unforeseen emergencies.

That such emergencies will arise in St. Helena, the past places beyond controversy.

The disastrous floods which have occurred will certainly be repeated, although the defensive measures adopted may mitigate their effect, and it is probable that the wharf will, from time to time, sustain damage from the February rollers, although none of a really serious nature have occurred for many years past.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The maintenance of public buildings, forests and roads, water supply and drainage cost £1,650, of which about £500 was expended in building a sea wall and on the extension of the wharf to provide for the erection of a new crane for coaling purposes.

In March 1894 H.M.S "Phœbe" put in to coal here on her way to take part in the Gambia operations after the disaster of that year.

Every effort was made to expedite the operations, and 420 tons were put on board in 28½ continuous hours, which at the time was deemed remarkably satisfactory.

I anticipate that the new work now completed will enable the Colony to double the rate of delivery in any future time of emergency.

LEGISLATION.

The only Ordinance of interest passed during the year was to empower the Governor in Council to fix the rates of postage, and on the 1st of October St. Helena entered the Postal Union, and acquired the long desired and long delayed boon of 2½*d.* postage to all countries of the Union.

This enormous gain to the poor of the Island, whose friends and relations are to a very large extent domiciled in South Africa, had been under consideration for long, and was dependent upon the financial exigencies.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The Assets and Liabilities account exhibits continued improvement. (*See* Appendix D.)

Twenty years ago the Liabilities exceeded the Assets by one-and-a-half times the annual revenue of to-day; ten years ago they exceeded the assets by rather more than half the annual revenue; while to-day the Assets exceed the Liabilities by rather more than half the amount of the annual revenue.

The Savings Bank was established in 1866, and for very many years received only slender support. Thus in 1886, in its 20th year, there were only 84 depositors with an average holding of £69 each. During the last ten years the number of depositors has risen to 180 with an average holding of £91, and I think the progress of the last few years indicates a better appreciation of the advantages of the Savings Bank and a weakening of the reliance upon the old stocking mode of banking.

ST. HELENA. 1896.

The somewhat slow progress of the Savings Bank is due to two causes. First, doubt as to the absolute safety of the deposits; and second, the fear that friends and relations might get to know, not only that money had been saved, but more or less the value of those savings.

The Appendix E shows the progress made by the Savings Bank since its initiation.

CALLING SHIPS.

Only 151 ships called during the year. Of these 89 were British and 64 Foreign. Of the British 10 were Men-of-war, and of the Foreign one was a Man-of-war.

The falling off from the previous year was 52, the largest percentage in any year since the opening of the Suez Canal, when the calling vessels numbered 853.

The return (*see* Appendix B), shows all vessels which have called since 1886, and it also shows the number of calling vessels, that is vessels trading with bumboat-men without obtaining pratique under the Passing Ships Ordinance, 1886.

It will be seen that the number of the "passing vessels" continues steadily to increase.

I transmit Comr. Hewetson's report upon shipping, which in his opinion must visit the Island in ever diminishing quantities until we are connected by cable with the outside world.

METEOROLOGY.

I transmit a report, by Mr. H. S. Hands, of the meteorological observations of the year. Progress has been made, and two fresh stations, "North" and "South" have been started which will contribute much to the value of those records.

Although it has long been known that the rainfall of this small Island exhibited remarkable local variation, it has always been assumed that the centre of the Island was the wettest. It now, however, appears probable that the southern station will dispute the claim of the central one in this respect.

The registered rainfall in 1896 was—

		Inches.
Centre of Island	-	40
East „ „	-	27
West „ „	-	25
South „ „	-	41 in 11 months.
North „	-	6 in 11 months.

POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

The health of the Island was very satisfactory, with the exception of the infant mortality, which was high.

The death rate was 14·9 per 1,000, but these figures convey an inadequate picture of the extreme healthiness of the Island, when allowance has been made for the depletion, by emigration, of the able-bodied population.

The population was estimated at the end of 1896 to be 3,890.

CONCLUSION.

It has too long been assumed that St. Helena is incapable of progress because the fictitiously inflated Napoleonic and subsequent period have dazzled the eye and prevented a due appreciation of her value and merits. This value and these merits are, I am satisfied, of too substantial and satisfactory a nature to be permanently lost sight of. That some progress has been made I think I have demonstrated : and the intense affection with which all her sons and daughters are bound to her, even after years of separation—an affection, with which even I, a passing unit, have become strongly impregnated—afford a guarantee of further substantial progress and future prosperity.

I have, &c.,

W. GREY WILSON.

APPENDIX A.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE, 1866 TO 1896.

Year.	Revenue.		Total Revenue exclusive of Grants and Loans.	Total Expenditure including repayment of debt.	Surplus.	Deficit.	Grants from Paliament.	Loans.
	Customs.	Other sources.						
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1866	17,257	5,895	23,152	26,110	..	2,958	..	5,000
1867	17,159	5,867	23,026	27,113	..	4,087	..	..
1868	13,402	5,304	18,706	26,203	..	7,497	3,000	5,000
1869	15,076	5,704	20,780	24,626	..	3,846	..	5,000
1870	11,094	4,880	15,974	18,943	..	2,969	..	1,250
1871	10,621	4,937	15,558	18,439	..	2,881	..	950 *
1872	10,121	3,807	13,928	27,376	..	13,448	..	4,208 *
1873	11,138	3,842	14,980	16,699	..	1,719	..	8,250 *
1874	10,003	3,979	13,982	14,522	..	540	..	..
1875	10,041	3,575	13,616	14,040	..	424	..	..
1876	9,555	3,612	13,167	13,329	..	162	5,500	..
1877	9,808	2,973	12,781	18,007	..	5,226	..	..
1878	10,517	3,681	14,198	12,815	1,383	..	..	..
1879	10,470	3,685	14,155	12,486	1,669	..	..	..
1880	8,547	3,403	11,950	11,870	80	..	..	..
1881	9,198	3,228	12,426	12,801	..	375	..	..
1882	8,253	3,247	11,500	11,212	288	..		..
1883	7,091	3,175	10,266	11,145	..	879	Grants for Mail Service.	..
1884	6,611	3,360	9,971	10,807	..	836	450	..
1885	6,017	3,032	9,049	†13,099	..	4,050	2,050	..
1886	6,580	3,606	10,186	†11,210	..	1,024	1,914	..
1887	4,590	3,454	8,044	†11,382	..	3,338	3,000	..
‡1888	5,841	3,425	9,266	†10,448	..	1,182	2,275	..
1889	4,891	3,518	8,409	†8,979	..	570	100	..
							†9,789	..
1890	5,656	3,073	8,729	9,032	..	303	..	..
1891	3,704	3,170	6,874	8,288	..	1,414	..	..
1892	4,352	3,339	7,691	7,445	246	..	..	..
1893	5,046	3,500	8,546	7,637	909	..	..	..
1894	4,688	6,377	11,065	9,777	1,288	..	..	..
1895	5,023	4,639	9,762	8,063	1,699	..	..	..
1896	4,807	4,353	9,160	8,572	288	..	..	..
				Total Loans and Grants in Aid	..	..	£18,289	24,658

* £5,158 lent by Imperial Government without interest. The other was at 7 per cent.
† Including payments for Mail Service amounting in the five years to £9,789.
Since 1889 the Imperial Government has paid the Mail subsidy, and the Colony has only paid for the actual Mails carried.

APPENDIX B.

SHIPPING.

Year.	Ships sighted.	Passed without any communication.	Traded with Boatmen.	Called.	Called and Traded with Boatmen.
1886	686	290	19	377	396
1887	619	193	109	317	427
1888	641	145	166	330	496
1889	604	55	261	288	549
1890	480	73	196	211	407
1891	502	39	252	211	463
1892	562	150	189	223	412
1893	516	124	193	199	392
1894	503	87	221	195	416
1895	854	464	187	203	390
1896	No record	No record	No record	151	—

APPENDIX C.

PENSIONS.

Year.	Pensions.	Revenue.
	£	£
1866	1,312	23,152
1867	1,354	23,026
1868	1,887	18,706
1869	1,758	20,780
1870	1,736	15,974
1871	1,564	15,558
1872	2,750	13,928
1873	3,255	14,980
1874	3,189	13,982
1875	3,107	13,616
1876	2,990	13,167
1877	3,009	12,781
1878	2,984	14,198
1879	2,816	14,155
1880	2,276	11,950
1881	1,817	12,426
1882	1,805	11,500
1883	1,805	10,266
1884	2,072	9,971
1885	2,298	9,049

PENSIONS—(*continued*).

Year.	Pensions.	Revenue.
	£	£
1886	2,422	10,186
1887	2,203	8,044
1888	2,053	9,266
1889	1,890	8,409
1890	1,901	8,729
1891	1,848	6,874
1892	1,758	7,691
1893	1,758	8,546
1894	1,801	11,065*
1895	1,760	9,762
1896	1,801	9,160

* Includes 1904 stamps sold and afterwards repurchased by Government.

APPENDIX D.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

Year.	Assets.*	Liabilities.*	Excess of Liabilities.	Excess of Assets.
	£	£	£	£
1877	3,999	16,405	12,406	
1878	5,785	16,035	10,250	
1879	7,456	16,048	8,592	
1880	7,208	15,523	8,315	
1881	6,969	15,192	8,223	
1882	6,821	13,305	6,584	
1883	7,164	11,343	4,179	
1884	6,251	10,748	4,497	
1885	4,490	10,272	5,782	
1886	7,170	11,879	4,709	
1887	8,762	12,733	3,971	
1888	10,117	12,213	2,096	
1889	10,248	11,683	1,435	
1890	11,831	12,268	437	
1891	12,580	13,616	1,036	
1892	13,629	14,233	604	
1893	11,600	11,268	—	332
1894	18,066	16,232	—	1,834
1895	21,157	17,010	—	4,147
1896	23,705	18,883	—	4,822

* No record of Assets and Liabilities before 1877. Prior to 1886 the arrears due to Pensioners, on the 31st of December each year, were omitted from the Liabilities.

APPENDIX E.

SAVINGS BANK.

Year.	No. of Depositors.	Due to Depositors 31st December.	Interest due for the year.
		£	£
1866	25	100	3
1867	47	254	7
1868	54	777	12
1869	68	1,270	30
1870	57	740	37
1871	42	737	28
1872	54	1,130	31
1873	62	1,374	37
1874	69	2,025	46
1875	76	2,319	54
10th Year. 1876	66	2,199	55
1877	66	3,480	75
1878	71	3,878	93
1879	75	4,005	68
1880	77	3,657	63
1881	68	4,032	65
1882	80	3,529	70
1883	80	3,519	74
1884	83	3,928	70
1885	72	4,153	74
20th Year. 1886	84	5,518	93
1887	84	5,862	142
1888	91	7,908	*158
1889	94	8,256	195
1890	112	10,608	215
1891	112	10,371	246
1892	108	12,144	274
1893	121	9,996	271
1894	145	13,615	303
1895	164	15,016	350
30th Year. 1896	180	16,409	388

* Bank safe stolen 1888.

ST. HELENA. 1896.

SHIPPING REPORT FOR 1896.

St. Helena,
5th February, 1897.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit the shipping statistics for 1896, which I regret to say shews, as compared with 1895, a decrease of 52 vessels or in tonnage 58,860 tons.

The American Whalers having ceased to make the Island their head quarters, fewer coolie ships and the increase of steamers, must account, in a measure, for the falling off in the shipping, but in my opinion the continued absence of a cable renders St. Helena almost valueless as a port of call for merchant vessels and war ships.

I have, &c.,

W. HEWETSON,
Commander R.N.
Harbour Master, &c.

To His Excellency,
W. Grey-Wilson, C.M.G.,
Governor of St. Helena.

METEOROLOGY, 1896.

Rainfall.

Hitherto the record of rainfall has only been registered in the Central, Eastern and Western Districts of the Island, but in the beginning of the year the Meteorological Council in England were generous enough to supply the instruments, and the record was started in the Northern and Southern Districts on the 1st February.

Notwithstanding the record was only taken for 11 months at the Southern Station, it exceeded the total for the whole year at the Central Station (the next wettest locality) by nearly half an inch, as will be seen from the following :—

		Inches.	
St. Matthew's Vicarage	(Central)	40·509—8¼	more than 1895.
Longwood	(East)	27·47—6½	„ „ „
Woodlands	(West)	25·38—1½	„ „ „
Mount Pleasant	(South)	40·98	11 months.
James Town	(North)	6·38	11 months.

The greatest daily record 1·41 inches was recorded at the Central Station on the 26th March.

The fall during the month of December was unusually heavy, being no less than 150 per cent. in excess of the average for the last 10 years.

Barometer.

The absolute range of the Barometer at St. Matthew's Vicarage was only 0·270 inches, the maximum 28·296 inches was attained on the 18th July, and the minimum 28·026 inches on the 15th January and 12th March.

The mean for the year at the same Station, at 9 a.m. was 28·137 inches.

Temperature.

The mean temperature at 9 a.m. at the Central Station was 61·5°, and the absolute maximum and minimum at the same Station was 77·6° and 50·2° on the 2nd March and 10th September, respectively.

No record was kept at Woodlands during the year, where the absolute readings are generally registered.

Wind.

The results from the Anemograph were similar to the preceding year, and on the whole a more continued record was secured.

The greatest daily force at 9 a.m. at St. Matthew's Vicarage was 6, corresponding to a pressure of 5·75 lbs. on the square foot, and the mean for the year equalled on the average a pressure of 1·6 lbs. on the square foot.

The daily variation was principally between the South and South South East, 47 per cent. being recorded from the former and 36 per cent. from the latter, with 13·2 per cent. from other quarters, and 3·8 per cent. of calm days.

H. S. HANDS.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 211.

ST. LUCIA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1896.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 179.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

October, 1897.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1897.

[C.—8650-9.] *Price* 1*d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
180	Labuan	1895
181	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
182	Seychelles	,,
183	Mauritius and Rodrigues	1894 and 1895
184	British Honduras	1895
185	Lagos	,,
186	Basutoland	1895–96
187	Ceylon	1895
188	British Guiana	1895–96
189	Gold Coast	1895
190	Jamaica	1895–96
191	Canada	1895
192	Bermuda	1896
193	Bahamas...	,,
194	Zululand	,,
195	Gambia	,,
196	Malta	,,
197	British New Guinea	1895–96
198	Turks and Caicos Islands	1896
199	Barbados	,,
200	Leeward Islands	1895
201	Trinidad and Tobago	1896
202	Gibraltar	,,
203	Fiji (Trade)	,,
204	Straits Settlements	1895
205	Do. do.	1896
206	Falkland Islands	,,
207	British Honduras	,,
208	Sierra Leone	,,
209	Grenada	,,
210	Hong Kong	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.

No. 211.

ST. LUCIA.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 179 of this Series.)

GOVERNOR SIR ALFRED MOLONEY TO MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Grenada,
14th September, 1897.

Forwarded.

ALFRED MOLONEY,
Governor.

Government House,
2nd September, 1897.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Report on the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1896.

I have, &c.,

P. J. K. FERGUSON.

His Excellency,
Sir Alfred Moloney, K.C.M.G.,
Grenada.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1896.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The revenue of the year amounted to £55,331, and the expenditure to £56,060, the expenditure being in excess of the revenue by £729.

14764*—75—10/97 Wt 20613 D & S—5 (B)

ST. LUCIA. 1896.

The revenue and expenditure for the years 1891-95 were as follows :—

—	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.
	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue ...	49,326	48,297	51,598	55,971	48,564
Expenditure ...	53,906	54,934	49,271	53,766	57,579

A new Customs Tariff came into force on the 1st January 1896. It was mainly a reversion to the rates of duty levied before the adoption in 1892 of a revised tariff to meet the requirements of the McKinley tariff arrangements.

The total revenue for the year appears to exceed that of 1895 by £6,767, but this is due to the interest and sinking fund on the guaranteed loans being included for the first time on the revenue side of the account. £1,000 also were transferred to the General Revenue from Land Sales Fund.

The receipts from Customs fell £273, and the receipts from Excise fell £700. These reduced receipts were the result of a decline in the amounts spent on military and other public works.

There was also a decrease in the collections from Road Tax of £245 in consequence of the departure of a number of people to the goldfields of Cayenne in French Guiana.

There was, however, an increase of £560 under the head of Port and Harbour dues, on account of the development of the coaling trade.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AND PUBLIC DEBT.

The year 1895 closed with a debit balance of £4,359, and it was increased at the end of 1896 to £5,088. This excess of liabilities over assets is exclusive of Debenture and Inscribed Stock Loans.

The Public Debt, on the 31st December 1896, amounted to £202,280, made up as follows :—

	£
6 per cent. Debentures - - -	21,500
5 „ „ do. - - -	2,600
4½ „ „ do. - - -	76,700
4¼ „ „ do. - - -	8,000
3½ „ „ do. - - -	8,000
4 „ „ Inscribed Stock - -	85,479

Included in the amount of £85,480 Inscribed Stock is a sum of £17,000 raised by the Colony on behalf of the Castries Town Board, interest and sinking fund being payable by the Board.

The credit of the Colony is pledged for the loan. The sum of £2,100 was paid off during the year in redemption of drawn debentures. The Public Debt, at the close of the year, exclusive of the Town Board loan, was equal to 3·34 times the revenue of the year, and represented an indebtedness at the rate of £3 19*s.* 4*d.* per head of the population. The charges on account of the Public Debt absorbed more than one-fourth of the revenue of the year.

Savings Bank.

The deposits during the year amounted to £7,396, and the withdrawals to £6,853. These figures compare favourably with those for 1895, which were £7,000 deposits and £7,162 withdrawals. The following table shews the number of depositors, the amount of deposits, and the average sum per depositor for the five years :—

Year.	No. of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits at 31st December.	Average sum per Depositor.
		£	£ *s.* *d.*
1892	905	7,704	8 10 3
1893	1,128	9,812	8 13 11
1894	1,187	9,428	7 18 10
1895	1,275	9,267	7 5 4
1896	1,277	9,810	7 13 9

The increase in the amount of deposits is due chiefly to the sums expended by the Military Authorities and Civil Government on public works ; and also to some extent to the return to the Colony with their earnings of natives who had emigrated to the Cayenne goldfields.

Military Expenditure.

The Imperial expenditure during the year for military purposes was £43,549. The Colonial expenditure amounted to £2,020, this amount being paid to the troops in lieu of exemption from Customs duties.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The works for supplying Castries with pure water made considerable progress during the year 1896; a supply from the new sources was brought into the town in the month of July, by means of a temporary pipe line connecting the new main with the old reservoir. The construction of a telephone line round the island, connecting the several towns and villages with Castries, was completed during the year, and a considerable number of instruments were put up for use. The new Government House was finally completed in the early part of the year. A sum of £3,448 was expended on the repairs and maintenance of the roads of the island during the year. In this amount is included the sum of £294 spent on the reconstruction of the Ravine Claire Road which had been destroyed by the floods in October 1894. River embankments for the protection of the town of Soufriere and the villages of Canaries and Choiseul were undertaken, and in the case of Canaries and Choiseul were completed during the year.

The amount expended on public works by the Colonial Government during 1896 was £33,916, of which £5,344 was defrayed out of general revenue and the remainder from loans. The military expenditure for works amounted to £10,493.

LEGISLATION.

Twenty Ordinances were passed during the year, of which the most important were :—

"An Ordinance to make provision with respect to the establishment, registration, incorporation, and management of Friendly and other societies."

"An Ordinance to protect the telephone lines erected in this island."

"An Ordinance to amend the Customs Tariff Ordinance 1895."

By this Ordinance a duty of 15 per cent. was imposed on all the duties leviable under the Customs Tariff Ordinance 1895, coal only being excepted from the 9th December 1896 to the 31st December 1897. The object of the Ordinance was to aid in making up the anticipated deficiency in the General Revenue.

"An Ordinance to require owners of land to furnish returns in respect of the lands owned by them."

The object of the Ordinance was to ascertain the quantity of land other than Crown land, cultivated and uncultivated in the island, and the names of the owners thereof.

"An Ordinance to encourage the introduction of capital into this Colony for agricultural purposes and with a view to enable

proprietors to develope the resources of their estates by means of loans at moderate rates of interest."

This Ordinance provides for the establishment of a company with a capital of not less than £100,000 for the purpose of making loans to proprietors of land at a rate of interest not to exceed 6 per cent., the duration of such loan to be for any period not exceeding 20 years, the Colony guaranteeing to the company, under certain conditions, interest at the rate of 3 per cent. on loans made. The Ordinance also provides for the levying of a tax of three-pence per acre on every acre of land outside the towns and villages, in the event of the Colony having to pay interest beyond such amount as it may be possible to meet out of the General Revenue.

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

His Excellency Sir Charles Bruce was present in the Colony from the 16th to the 20th March, and from the 4th November to the 12th December, during which period he administered the Government of the Colony.

His Honour Lieut. Colonel V. Skipton Gouldsbury obtained six weeks leave of absence from the 8th October; he left the Colony on the 16th October and died on the 12th November.

Lieut. Colonel C. L. Dale, Officer Commanding Troops, as senior member of the Executive Council, assumed the administration of the Government on the 8th October and continued to administer the affairs of the Colony up to the 3rd November. On the departure of Sir Charles Bruce on the 12th December, he again assumed the administration and continued to the end of the year.

The Honourable D. G. Garraway, Treasurer, was appointed to act as Colonial Secretary during Sir Charles Bruce's stay in the Colony from the 4th November to 12th December.

Mr. L. J. Bertram, Auditor of the Windward Islands, was appointed Auditor-General of the Leeward Islands on the 6th February. Mr. William Cuddeford was appointed Auditor of the Windward Islands on the 6th May. During the interval between the departure of Mr. Bertram from and the arrival of Mr Cuddeford at Grenada, Mr. C. F. Anton acted as Auditor of the Windward Islands.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

During the absence on leave for six months of the Honourable Emmanuel DuBoulay, his seat in the Council was occupied by Mr. G. Graf.

The Honourable E. G. Bennett was appointed a member of the Council in the place of Mr. S. H. Battam resigned.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The population on the 31st December was estimated at 46,671, shewing an increase of 765 over that for 1895. The birth rate was 38 per thousand and the death rate 21 per thousand. The number of marriages was 293, being an increase of 13 over that for the preceding year. The percentage of illegitimate births was 60·15, shewing a slight increase over 1895.

IMMIGRATION.

There were in the Colony at the end of the year 149 indentured Indian immigrants, of which number 125 were adults. There was no importation of Indian immigrants nor was there any repatriation of time-expired immigrants during the year. The following table shows the birth rate and death rate among the indentured immigrants.

1896.	Percentage.	
	Indentured Immigrants.	General Population.
Birth rate	6·2	3·84
Death rate	3·2	2·17

There were four "East Indian Mission" schools with 211 children on the registers.

PRIMARY EDUCATION.

There were at the beginning of the year 37 schools of primary education, one of which was closed at the end of May, and two others on the 31st December.

At the end of the year 4,182 children were on the rolls, with an average attendance of 2,256; the figures for the previous year being 3,977, and 2,212, respectively. The Inspector's report, although showing an increase of 107 presented for examination in 1896, as compared with the number presented in 1895, nevertheless, shows a decrease of 39 in the number of passes. This is chiefly due to a change in the syllabus, which only came into operation about three months before the examinations began in September. The number of children on the registers represents 8·96 per cent. of the population.

The Government contribution to primary schools amounted to £2,694 18*s.*, or £1 3*s.* 10½*d.* per head of the children in average attendance.

A Government grant in aid of secondary education was, as in previous years, made to St. Mary's College.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following tables shew the value and direction of the trade of the Colony for the last five years :—

Imports.

Countries from whence Imported.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	103,859	86,838	93,780	74,512	101,983
British Colonies	30,360	26,602	31,933	26,690	25,177
Foreign Countries	38,806	55,538	61,425	51,720	63,070
Wrecks	—	—	404	23	303
Totals...£	173,025	168,978	187,542	154,945	190,533

Of the total value of imports from foreign countries £45,543 were from the United States.

Exports.

Countries to which Exported.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	44,757	55,217	43,062	24,269	24,144
British Colonies	7,153	5,212	11,297	2,951	4,842
Foreign Countries	84,446	118,001	91,535	74,935	64,734
Totals...£	136,356	178,430	145,894	102,155	93,720*

* Including specie, but exclusive of bunker coals supplied to shipping, which amounted to £42,575.

Of the £64,734 value of exports to foreign countries, the United States received £46,481, almost entirely in sugar.

ST. LUCIA. 1896.

The following table gives the quantity and value of the principal exports in 1896, compared with the two preceding years :—

Exports.	1894.		1895.		1896.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	lbs.	£	lbs.	£	lbs.	£
Sugar, Usine ...	7,668,400	53,679	7,362,200	46,014	6,843,920	56,096
,, Muscovado	2 377,320	12,483	763,700	3,341	1,105,608	5,860
	gals.		gals.		gals.	
Molasses	223,320	3,722	279,960	3,499	105,000	1,444
	lbs.		lbs.		lbs.	
Cocoa	983,200	28,513	739,402	16,637	1,136,843	15,403
	tons.		tons.		tons.	
Logwood... ...	7,116	37,359	5,086	25,430	1,904	4,285

The average price of the principal exports for 1896, compared with the two preceding years, was approximately as follows :—

Exports.	1894.	1895.	1896.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Sugar, per 100 lbs., Usine ...	0 14 0	0 12 6	0 16 5
,, ,, Muscovado...	0 10 0	0 8 9	0 10 7
Molasses, per gallon	0 0 4	0 0 3	0 0 3
Cocoa, per 100 lbs.	2 18 0	2 5 0	1 7 0
Logwood, per ton...	5 5 0	5 0 0	2 5 0

SHIPPING.

The following table shews the number and tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in 1896 :—

	Entered.		Cleared.	
	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.
Steamers	435	574,244	435	574,244
Sailing vessels	287	20,827	293	21,475

Of the 435 steamers entered, 357 were British, 32 French, 18 Belgian, 15 German, and 9 Norwegian. The number of steam vessels entered in 1896 shews an increase of 70 as compared with that in 1895. Most of the steamers entering call for bunker coal. The shipment of this article was, in 1896, 44,816 tons. In 1895 it was 35,714 tons, and 1894, 39,764 tons. The price of bunker coal in 1896 is returned at 19*s.* per ton, as against 20*s.* in 1895, and 23*s.* in 1894. This fall in price is due entirely to local competition.

METEOROLOGY.

From observations taken at the Morne, at an elevation of 745 feet above mean sea level, the rainfall during the year was 114·29 inches. This, though somewhat less than the rainfall for 1895, was still considerably above the average. The heaviest rainfall was 17·45 inches in the month of November, and the lowest 2·92 in February. Rain fell on 280 days during the year; the greatest number of rainy days (29) occurring in July and the least (16) in October. The absolute maximum temperature recorded was 89·2° in October; the absolute minimum was 66° in January, February and March.

AGRICULTURE.

During the year 1896 agriculture suffered from the same causes which affected it in 1895, namely, short crops and low prices. The Central Sugar Factory at Grand Cul-de-Sac, referred to by Sir Charles Bruce in his report on the Blue Book for 1895, as having been taken over provisionally for a year by a local Syndicate, was brought to Judicial sale on the 19th September 1896, at the suit of the Colonial Treasurer against the St. Lucia Central Factory Company, Limited, and bought in for the local Syndicate for £4,000, the Syndicate having come to terms with the Mortgagees who held claims of over £30,000. The Syndicate have continued to work the property, from all accounts, with success.

The export of cocoa increased considerably during the year 1896, and the cultivation of coffee was extended.

P. J. K. FERGUSON,
Administrator.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 212.

ST. VINCENT.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1896.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 179.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
October, 1897.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 1-3, Great St. Thomas Apostle, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, Hanover Street, Edinburgh, and
90, West Nile Street, Glasgow; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., Limited, 104, Grafton Street, Dublin.

1897.

[C.—8650-10.] *Price* 1*d*.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
183	Mauritius and Rodrigues	1894 and 1895
184	British Honduras	1895
185	Lagos	„
186	Basutoland	1895–96
187	Ceylon	1895
188	British Guiana	1895–96
189	Gold Coast	1895
190	Jamaica	1895–96
191	Canada	1895
192	Bermuda	1896
193	Bahamas	„
194	Zululand	„
195	Gambia	„
196	Malta	„
197	British New Guinea	1895–96
198	Turks and Caicos Islands	1896
199	Barbados	„
200	Leeward Islands	1895
201	Trinidad and Tobago	1896
202	Gibraltar	„
203	Fiji (Trade)	„
204	Straits Settlements	1895
205	Do. do.	1896
206	Falkland Islands	„
207	British Honduras	„
208	Sierra Leone	„
209	Grenada	„
210	Hong Kong	„
211	St. Lucia	„

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.

No. 212.

ST. VINCENT.

(For Report for 1895 *see* No. 179 of this Series.)

GOVERNOR SIR A. MOLONEY to Mr. CHAMBERLAIN.

Grenada,
15th September, 1897.

Forwarded.

ALFRED MOLONEY,
Governor.

Government House,
St. Vincent, 7th September, 1897.

SIR,

IN submitting to your Excellency at this late period of the year the usual annual report on the Colony in respect of the year 1896 it is right that I should state, in explanation of the delay in its appearance and in transmitting the Blue Book, that I found some difficulty in arriving at facts in the absence of annual administrative reports from the several departments which, with some exceptions, have not been hitherto required here.

FINANCES.

The deficit at 1st January, 1896, was £3,712 and the transactions of the year reduced that deficit at its close to £816. This resulted, not from any improvement in the revenue, which, as in recent years, failed to cover the expenditure, but from

14769*—75—10/97 Wt 20613 D & S—5 (B)

ST. VINCENT. 1896.

reduction of the deficit by £4,000, obtained pending the issue of debentures under an Ordinance passed in June to provide £5,000, repayable in 10 years, with the object of meeting the excess of liabilities over assets.

Revenue.

£26,487 were received, being £1,027 more than the revenue of 1895, but £1,281 less than the average of the four years 1892-95. The improvement on the preceding year was due entirely to increased import duty imposed by legislation at the close of 1895, to additional taxation of land and incomes resorted to in June, 1896, and to abnormal sales of postage stamps. But for these exceptional causes the revenue would probably have been more than £2,000 less than 1895.

Expenditure.

£27,591, being £1,320 less than in 1895 and £1,859 less than the average of the four years 1892-95, was the expenditure of 1896, but it nevertheless exceeded the revenue by £1,104. In this respect however it was an improvement on the three preceding years, as will be seen from the following figures :—

Year.	Expenditure.	Revenue	Deficiency.
	£	£	£
1893	29,439	27,914	1,325
1894	30,545	28,574	1,971
1895	28,911	25,460	3,451
1896	27,591	26,487	1,104

This result is attributable to reduced expenditure on public works and to economies enforced in the several departments.

Public Debt.

Opposite in tabular form is a statement of the public debt of the Colony, which amounted at the end of 1896 to £19,160, or about 8*s.* 4*d.* per head of the population.

Nature of Loan.	When incurred.	Original Amount.	Repaid.	Balance due.	Rate of interest.	Rate of annual repayment.	Date of extinction.
		£	£	£		£	
Government House Loan	1882—88	3,280	2,240	1,040	5 per cent.	160	February 1903
Immigration Loan	1889	4,750	3,500	1,250	„	500	„ 1899
Crown Lands Loan	1887 & 1891	1,920	400	1,520	„	200	March 1904
Telephone Loan	1894	2,200	400	1,800	„	200	February 1905
Kingstown Loan	„	1,500	300	1,200	„	150	June 1904
Do. Water Works Loan (No. 1) ...	1889—93	8,000	2,100	5,900	„	300	February 1913
Do. do. do. (No. 2) ...	1894	1,000	200	800	„	100	June 1904
Georgetown do. do.	„	1,000	150	850	„	50	November 1913
Public Loan (No. 1)	1888	3,600	2,800	800	„	350	August 1899
Do. do. (No. 2)	1896	4,000	*Nil.*	4,000	3½ per cent.	218	1907
Totals ... ... £	—	31,250	12,090	19,160	—	2,228	—

ST. VINCENT. 1896.

The general revenue is in the first instance liable for the interest and repayment of these debentures, but £10,000 of the total amount is paid from local rates and the Immigration Fund, and if the Telephone System of the Colony fully paid its way £1,800 would be similarly provided for. The actual debt, therefore, chargeable on the general taxpayer was only £7,360.

TRADE AND SHIPPING.

Imports and Exports.

In 1896 the imports and exports were for the first time systematically classified and their value for statistical purposes arrived at by adding to the original values percentages to represent, in the case of imports, the cost of freight, packages, and insurance, and in the case of exports, the cost of packages. So as to secure a fair comparison, therefore, between the trade of 1896 and its immediate predecessors, the subjoined statement shows the values both with and without those percentages.

Imports.

Country.	Without Percentages.					With Percentages.
	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1896.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ...	49,313	41,388	39,193	27,687	26,396	29,847
British Colonies ...	44,301	40,178	37,296	26,187	25,834	31,667
Foreign Countries ...	9,366	11,859	14,521	10,968	7,799	9,975
Totals £	102,980	93,425	91,010	64,842	60,029	71,499

Exports.

	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ...	52,317	41,789	34,899	25,876	19,237	21,131
British Colonies ...	25,914	25,142	21,395	19,577	15,123	15,851
Foreign Countries ...	39,341	47,763	31,080	23,237	27,297	30,410
Totals £	117,572	114,694	87,374	68,690	61,657	67,392

It will be observed that in the last five years the volume of the Colony's trade has decreased nearly 50 per cent., the shrinkage of that with the mother country being a marked feature. The bulk of the Colony's trade is at present with the United States of America, for not only did nearly all the imports in 1896 shown as received from foreign countries come from thence, and more than two-thirds of the exports to such places go there, but the greater quantity of goods imported from British Colonies consists of American foodstuffs, &c., imported through Barbados and Trinidad.

The serious downward tendency of the trade of St. Vincent in late years is, of course, largely attributable to the very low prices realised by the Colony's chief staples, which are the products of the sugar cane and arrowroot. Other causes of a local nature, to which reference will be made later on, are, however, responsible to a great extent for this regrettable decadence. Two marked features in the export trade of late years are the steady falling off of sugar, both in quantity produced and value realised, and the increased output of arrowroot in face of a steady fall in its value. The following statement of the principal exports for the last five years shows these facts clearly :—

[*For tabulated Statement see p.* 8.]

Year	Sugar.		Rum.		Molasses.		Arrowroot.		Cocoa.	Cotton.	Spices.	Fruit and Vegetables.	Peas.	Whale Oil.	Ground Nuts.	Live Stock and Poultry.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.								
	Hhds.	£	Puns.	£	Puns.	£	Brls.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1892	3,884	33,366	566	4,530	1,366	4,158	23,433	61,313	2,700	1,029	785	3,596	584	340	216	1,887
1893	3,619	43,705	242	1,694	749	1,988	22,310	50,807	3,271	727	878	2,445	432	676	281	2,726
1894	3,135	27,270	275	2,200	405	1,012	29,119	38,278	3,272	530	1,223	2,965	336	473	506	3,903
1895	2,782	18,962	152	892	691	1,728	26,695	26,960	3,247	411	1,812	3,285	541	475	598	3,672
1896	2,726	21,512	309	1,892	1,117	3,396	20,122	22,007	3,209	255	686	2,690	500	726	422	2,814

Some caution is necessary, however, in connection with these figures, for faulty Customs supervision has in the past allowed returns of exports (particularly those in respect of which an export duty is levied) to be made in many cases far below correct quantities and values.

Shipping.

The number and tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in 1896 at Kingstown, the sole port of entry, were as follows :—

	Entered.		Cleared.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Steamers	94	123,612	94	123,612
Sailing vessels	414	12,435	413	13,586

All of the steamers were British, and of the sailing vessels entered, 41 belonged to the United States of Venezuela, 4 to the United States of America, and 4 to the Netherlands, the remainder being British. Port and tonnage dues are still levied at Kingstown for purposes of General Revenue, and £799 were received during the year. There is a great necessity for the establishment of ports of entry at the towns of Georgetown and Chateaubelair, as the trade of the out-districts is carried on at present under many difficulties, in consequence of there being only one port. It is also desirable that arrangements should be made for vessels going through the Grenadines to Trinidad to finally clear at Carriacou, as many breaches of the Customs law occur under existing circumstances.

AGRICULTURE.

1896 was a year of severe trial for the agricultural interests of St. Vincent. Notwithstanding the steady downward course of the sugar cane industry, the planters of this Colony have clung to it, always hoping for the advent of better prices and a larger demand for the class of sugar produced on their estates. The only real competitor admitted at any time to favour has been arrowroot, to the production of the best grades of which local conditions are most propitious. Here, however, there has been a failure to realise that there is only a limited demand for this starch, and the result has been over-production, with the inevitable consequence of a rapid fall in prices. In 1892 the arrowroot exported was 23,433 barrels, worth £61,313 ; in 1896, 20,122 barrels were exported, worth only £22,007. The downfall of the

local sugar industry is evidenced by the fact that in 1880 the products of the sugar cane (sugar, molasses, rum) exported were worth £128,603, whereas in 1896 the value of such exports was only £26,800, while the 9,168 hogsheads of sugar despatched in 1880 dwindled in 1896 to 2,726 hogsheads.

The soil and climate of St. Vincent offer every inducement to the cultivation of other tropical products, such as coffee, cola, spices, rubber, and tobacco, but local conditions affecting the land have unfortunately so far proved an effectual bar to progress in this direction. There are about 44,000 acres of cultivable land in the island, and of these no less than 30,000 acres are in the hands of only ten proprietors, one of whom owns 11,936 acres. The agricultural policy of the Colony is, therefore, that which is adhered to by these ten landowners, and as they, with one or two exceptions, adhere to a restricted cultivation of the sugar cane and an over-production of arrowroot, in face of the stubborn facts already referred to, and as the land is absolutely the sole source of income in St. Vincent, the Colony will remain impoverished until either their views change or their absorption of the land ceases. Meanwhile, in isolated cases, cocoa, coffee, and nutmegs are being planted, and the labouring class, wherever they are so fortunate as to obtain land for rent, devote themselves to the cultivation of ground provisions, peas, and ground nuts, and to the rearing of live stock and poultry, the value of which (excluding local consumption), amounted in 1896 to about £6,500. If suitable lands were available for the peasantry, as their own property, and greater facilities for transport of these commodities to Barbados and Trinidad afforded, this source of income would largely develope, and permanent products of the type usually styled "minor industries" in these colonies would infallibly be taken up by them successfully.

In the Botanical Station, with its skilful and energetic Curator, Mr. H. Powell, there exists the nucleus of a Department of Agriculture, which, judiciously applied for the dissemination of plants and information to the peasants, and for instruction in methods of cultivation, cannot fail to secure satisfactory results.

METEOROLOGY.

The rainfall registered at the Botanical Station in 1896 was 128 inches, the average for the last six years being 116 inches; the highest temperature was 87·5°, and the lowest 66·5°, the average for the year being 79.5°. There is a need of rainfall records in the out districts of the Colony, as the only place whence reliable returns are now received is Penistons, in the Buccament Valley on the Leeward coast; the rainfall there for the year was 138 inches.

On 28th to 29th November a severe rainstorm, following upon continuous rains for many days, visited the Northern half of the island, and the flood occasioned thereby has in many cases

completely altered the face of that part of the island known as the "Carib Country." The effects are of such magnitude as to encourage the supposition that the damage must have been caused by the bursting of a waterspout on the central ridge. Roads, bridges, houses, and acres of land, cultivated and uncultivated, were swept away, and 25 lives were lost. The damage done was greatly augmented by thousands of enormous trunks of trees, the result of felling the virgin forest on parts of the Crown lands, which were brought down by the rivers, and proved to be formidable weapons of destruction. The danger of deforesting the Crown lands is matter for serious consideration.

Roads and Works.

Only ordinary repairs and maintenance of buildings &c. were carried out during the year. The reconstruction of the Bellair-Gommier Byeway, which had been seriously damaged by a flood in 1895, and the construction of a road connecting the Crown lands allotments in the Perseverance Valley with the Windward Highway, were commenced. This latter road was begun on too large a scale, only a pack road being necessary.

The roads of the island require to be taken in hand and systematically dealt with if the agricultural resources of the Colony are to be developed with any hope of success. At present, with the exception of the highways to Windward and the Marriaqua Valley, and parts of the Leeward highway, their condition is scandalous. The system which obtains of attempting to maintain the byeways by assessment of residents in their vicinity is quite unsuited to present wants and not reconcilable with recent taxation. There is no proper supervision, and, as regards the byeways, absolutely no control of expenditure. A scheme having for its object the opening up by means of loan funds of the back lands by reconstructing the byeways and connecting such portions of the Crown lands as are accessible and cultivable by pack roads leading to the byeways, is essential to future prosperity.

Vital Statistics.

According to estimate, based upon the natural increase since the census of 1891, the population at 31st December, 1896, was 45,334 : this estimate, however, takes cognisance only approximately of emigration and immigration, and of the former there has unfortunately been a considerable quantity, as numbers of adult males have left in search of employment elsewhere, being quite unable to support themselves locally in the existing condition of the labour market.

The birth rate per 1,000 of this population was 43·5 and the death rate 22·8. The health of the Colony was fairly good throughout the year, and there was no epidemic disease.

ST. VINCENT. 1896.

EDUCATION.

A tabular statement of the statistics relating to education in 1896, as compared with 1895, is subjoined.

Primary Schools.

Description of School.	No. of Schools.	Number of Scholars.				Income.		Expenditure.
		No. on Roll.	Average attendence.			Government Contributions.	Voluntary Contributions.	
			Boys.	Girls.	Total.			
						£	£	£
Government Schools	1	145	73	50	123	46	—	46
Assisted Schools—								
Anglican	21	3,018	886	767	1,653	820	15	835
Wesleyan... ...	19	2,827	833	787	1,620	836	16	852
Roman Catholic...	4	512	154	117	271	136	—	136
Totals for 1896 ...	45	6,502	1,946	1,721	3,667	1,838	31	1,869
Totals for 1895 ...	45	6,078	1.812	1,561	3,373	1,986	954	2,930
Increase in 1896 ...	—	424	134	160	294	—	—	—
Decrease in 1896 ...	—	—	—	—	—	148	923*	1,061

* £800 expended in erection of a new School House.

The principal features of the year under review were the increased number of scholars and the decreased income and expenditure of the schools consequent upon the enforcement of rigid economy by the Government. The bye-laws of the Board of Education require to be revised in the direction of simplification, the system they provide for being in many respects too elaborate and complex for a small and impoverished Colony.

CRIME AND PRISONS.

In the table which follows, the criminal statistics for 1896 are compared with the average results for the three preceding years, and a decrease is apparent under every head except praedial larceny, and "other offences" convicted in the Supreme Court. This decrease is no doubt due to the large emigration of adult males already referred to, combined with the reduced means of

those who remain, who cannot afford to prepay fees for the trial of cases in the Magistrates' Courts. Prosecutions for robbery from provision grounds and cane fields of estates, however, still continue, so that praedial larceny convictions maintain their normal figures.

———	1896.	Average 1893-95.	Increase.	Decrease.
Persons apprehended by Police or summoned before Magistrates...	1,279	1,506	—	227
Summary Convictions :				
Offences against the person	185	213	—	28
Praedial Larceny	55	45	10	—
Offences against property other than Praedial Larceny	99	117	—	18
Other offences	370	488	—	118
Convictions in Supreme Court :				
Offences against the person	3	8	–	5
Praedial Larceny	—	2	—	2
Offences against property other than Praedial Larceny	—	9	—	9
Other offences	7	1	6	—
Persons acquitted :				
In Inferior Courts	167	172	–	5
„ Supreme Court	4	5	—	1

The daily average in the Kingstown Prison for the year was 34, the total number of persons committed being 231 ; the corresponding figures for 1895 were 38 and 201. In February, two convicts, whom it was found difficult to control locally, were transferred to the Grenada Prison to work out their sentences there. The total cost of the prison for the year was £637.

INSTITUTIONS.

Colonial Hospital.

The number of patients admitted during the year was 490, of whom 229 were cured and 145 relieved ; there were 43 deaths, and the daily average in hospital was 59 ; 224 operations were

performed, and the gross cost of the institution was £1,299. A house surgeon is much wanted for this hospital, as, apart from the manifest advantage of having a resident medical man, the Colonial Surgeon would then be enabled to attend to duties more properly within his sphere and more in need of his attention than discharging the regular routine of hospital work as he is now compelled to do.

Georgetown Hospital.

34 patients were admitted, 24 being cured, and 4 relieved; there were 4 deaths, and the daily average was 2; 17 minor operations were performed. This institution, as soon as funds are available, ought unquestionably to be made more useful, and to serve the purpose of a District Hospital for the Carib Country. The Colonial Hospital is at such a distance from this district, and transport of sick persons thither so difficult, that numbers of cases requiring hospital treatment in this part of the island never get it.

Lunatic Asylum.

The lunatics of the Colony are sent to Grenada for treatment, and in 1896, 6 were despatched thither, the number remaining there for treatment at end of the year being 21. Religious mania is prevalent among the women of the lower classes.

Pauper Asylum.

In this institution incurable cases of ulcers, &c., are domiciled along with those admitted on ground of pauperism, the latter class of cases being steadily on the increase owing to the wide-spread poverty in the Colony. A radical change in this and other details of the poor relief system is desirable. 93 cases were admitted in 1896, the daily average being 99 against 80 in the preceding year, and 74, the average of the three years 1892-94. The institution cost £954 to maintain, besides which £400 was otherwise expended by the Government on Poor Relief.

Leper Asylum.

Two cases were admitted, and two died in the year, the daily average being 16; the Colonial Surgeon reports that the disease is not on the increase in the Colony. The cost of the institution was £219.

Savings Bank.

Subjoined is a statement of the working of the Bank for the last five years :—

Year.	Number of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits.	Amount of Withdrawals.	Balance at credit of Depositors at December 31st.
		£	£	£
1892	946	4,843	4,751	8,958
1893	1,001	4,514	5,154	8,317
1894	1,021	5,583	5,165	8,925
1895	1,012	4,316	4,460	8,974
1896	1,062	4,451	5,350	8,455

The fact that the general depression in the Colony does not reflect itself more clearly in these figures is probably because there are few small investments in landed property in St. Vincent, and owners of small savings deposit them at 2½ per cent. interest in the Bank in default of anything better to do with them. As soon as District Banks are established, arrangements for which are now in progress, the working of the Bank will show even better results. £7,000 of the funds are held by the Crown Agents on investment in England.

Legislation.

Ten Ordinances were enacted, the most important of which were those authorising the raising of loans of £5,000 to cover the Colonial deficit, and of £3,000 to provide and improve communication by road with the Crown Lands allotments, and that consolidating the Licence laws of the Colony and removing all exemptions from taking out licences previously existing.

Official Changes.

His Excellency the Governor paid seven visits to the Colony in the year, assuming the direct administration of the Government for 53 days altogether.

In the Executive and Legislative Councils Mr. Ormond Hazell took his seat as Acting Attorney General consequent upon the departure of Mr. S. L. Thornton on leave from which he did not return. Dr. Newsam, Colonial Surgeon, was provisionally appointed an official member of Legislative Council consequent

ST. VINCENT. 1896.

upon the Treasurer's absence on leave, and Mr. W. C. D. Proudfoot was similarly appointed an unofficial member for such time as Mr. Hazell (who holds an unofficial seat) acts as Attorney General.

Chief Justice Trafford was absent on leave from 3rd April to the end of the year, and Mr. G. P. St. Aubyn, magistrate of the Kingstown District, was appointed to act for him.

Mr. F. B. Griffith, the treasurer, retired on pension at the end of the year, after 17 years local service.

GENERAL.

The Colony is passing through a severe crisis, which became more acute in 1896 than in preceding years, as the causes, both local and external, to which reference has been made in this report, more fully developed their evil effects. No one, however, who has studied the resources of the island can doubt for a moment that, if a radical change is made in existing local conditions, which retard its progress, there will be a gradual return of prosperity. With a more equitable distribution of the land, a proper system of roads, provision for rapid and safe transport of produce to suitable markets, and a decentralisation of the interests, both public and private, now concentrated in Kingstown, a future, perhaps not of great affluence, but certainly of solvent prosperity, lies before this beautiful but so far unfortunate possession of the Crown.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD DRAYTON.

His Excellency,
Sir Alfred Moloney, K.C.M.G., &c.
Governor of Grenada.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 214.

SEYCHELLES.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1896.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 182.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
November, 1897.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 1-3, Great St. Thomas Apostle, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, Hanover Street, Edinburgh, and
90, West Nile Street, Glasgow; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., Limited, 104, Grafton Street, Dublin.

1897.

[C.—8650.–12.] *Price* 1*d*.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
183	Mauritius and Rodrigues	1894 and 1895
184	British Honduras	1895
185	Lagos	„
186	Basutoland	1895-96
187	Ceylon	1895
188	British Guiana	1895–96
189	Gold Coast	1895
190	Jamaica	1895-96
191	Canada	1895
192	Bermuda	1896
193	Bahamas...	„
194	Zululand	„
195	Gambia	„
196	Malta	„
197	British New Guinea	1895–96
198	Turks and Caicos Islands	1896
199	Barbados	„
200	Leeward Islands	1895
201	Trinidad and Tobago	1896
202	Gibraltar	„
203	Fiji (Trade)	„
204	Straits Settlements	1895
205	Do. do.	1896
206	Falkland Islands	„
207	British Honduras	„
208	Sierra Leone	„
209	Grenada	„
210	Hong Kong	„
211	St. Lucia...	„
212	St. Vincent	„
213	St. Helena	„

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.

No. 214.

SEYCHELLES.

(For Report for 1895 *see* No. 182 of this Series.)

ADMINISTRATOR STEWART TO MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Seychelles,
1st September, 1897.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward my Report on the Blue Book for 1896.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The revenue of 1896 amounted to Rs. 243,802 as against Rs. 233,282 in the previous year, and exceeded the estimated revenue by Rs. 4,514. It surpassed the revenue of last year by Rs. 10,520 and was in excess of the average revenue for the six years preceding 1895 by Rs. 24,610.

The expenditure was Rs. 238,177 as against Rs. 225,500 in 1895, and was Rs. 118 under the estimate.

The revenue has consequently exceeded the expenditure by Rs. 5,264.

The ratio of revenue to the population was Rs. 13·32.

The ratio of expenditure to the population was Rs. 13·01.

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

The exports amounted to Rs. 1,569,912 and the imports to Rs. 975,079.

14893*—75—10/97 Wt 20613 D & S—5 (B)

SEYCHELLES. 1896.

The exports were more than double those of the previous year owing to the large vanilla crop of 1896, which is valued at Rs. 936,000,—63,000 lbs. of vanilla having been exported.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Beyond constructing three vault bridges in masonry no works of any importance were undertaken last year.

The roads throughout the Island of Mahé have been kept in thorough repair and owing to the Cantonnier System, which has proved to be a complete success, the roads are in a better state than they have been for years. Fifty-nine wooden bridges have been repaired and six reconstructed.

POPULATION.

The estimated population of the Archipelago on the 31st December, 1896, was 18,301 inhabitants, whereof 9,240 were males and 9,061 females.

The births in 1896 was 615 as compared with 657 the previous year; birth rate 33·6 per 1000.

The mean rate of increase of the population for the sexennial period 1891—1896 is again 17·7 per 1,000 as for the quinquennal period 1891—1895.

The still-births were at the rate of 2·1 per 1,000.

The death rate 16 per 1,000.

EDUCATION.

There were 27 schools examined by the Inspector of Schools, one of which was the Government Undenominational School, the rest Grant-in-aid Schools.

The number of children examined was 2,214 against 2,178 in 1895, the average attendance for the school year being 1,608.

The sums voted for education in 1895 were :—

	Rs.
Grants to Grant-in-aid Schools	8,000
Government School...	3,829
Grants to affiliated classes	1,200
Or a total of	Rs. 13,029

The Grant-in-aid was apportioned as follows :—

	Rs.
Roman Catholic Schools	6,470
Church of England Schools	1,529

In December 1896, 41 pupils from the St. Louis College and Government School were presented for the first time for examination in the classes affiliated to the Royal College of Mauritius of whom 20 succeeded in passing, securing between them 10 prizes.

JUDICIAL.

There were 602 criminal informations lodged in 1896 and 565 adjudicated upon.

There were 838 persons charged and 697 convicted; 209 cases were disposed of on the Civil Side and 56 in the Stipendiary Court.

There were also 95 cases dealt with in Chamber.

POLICE.

The police force of Seychelles consists of :—

1 Chief Officer of Police,
1 Sergeant Major,
2 Sergeants,
3 Corporals, and
45 Men.

PRISON.

329 persons were committed to prison during the last year, of which number 19 were sentenced to one year and upwards but under five years, the remainder to less than one year.

The daily average in prison was 73.

No deaths occurred.

MEDICAL.

The number of persons treated at the Public Hospital of Mahé was 183 against 141 in 1895.

——	1895	1896
Paupers...	51	90
Prisoners	23	11
Police and Government labourers	16	36
Paying patients	51	46
Total	141	183

Of these—

88 were discharged cured,
55 „ „ relieved,
19 „ „ unrelieved,
11 died,
10 remained in hospital at the end of the year.

183

The number of out-door patients in 1896 was 2,368 against 5,916 in 1895.

The large diminution is owing to a new system which I inaugurated two years ago by which those persons applying for free treatment at the dispensary have to produce tickets from the police showing that they are unable to pay for medicines or medical relief. The system has worked well.

In 1896 453 children were successfully vaccinated at the hospital, and 154 in the outlying districts.

LEGISLATION.

The following Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council in 1896 :—

1. An Ordinance to provide for the service of the year 1896.

2. An Ordinance to give a casting vote to the President of the Board of Health.

3. An Ordinance to authorise the survey and detention of unseaworthy British ships about to proceed to sea, and to provide for the regulation of navigation between the islands of the Seychelles group.

4. An Ordinance to empower the Registrar of the Court of Seychelles to issue search-warrants and warrants of arrest in certain cases.

5. An Ordinance to repeal Section 9 of Ordinance 1 of 1892 (Prisons Ordinance of 1892) and to make other provisions in lieu thereof.

6. An Ordinance to regulate the importation and storage of dangerous goods.

7. An Ordinance for the making and repairing and for the police and superintendence of public roads in the Seychelles Islands.

8. An Ordinance to amend Section 4 of Ordinance 4 of 1895.

9. An Ordinance to amend the law as to corporal punishment for prison offences.

10. An Ordinance to amend the law relating to the publication of judicial sales of immoveable property.

11. An Ordinance to amend Ordinance 38 of 1888 (Mauritius) relating to wrecks, casualties, and salvage.

12. An Ordinance to provide for the treatment of convict, vagrant, and pauper lepers.

13. An Ordinance to empower the police to search more effectually for stolen property.

14. An Ordinance to provide for the service of the Seychelles Islands for the year 1897.

15. An Ordinance to confer upon certain officers the right of entering on private land for certain purposes.

16. An Ordinance to remove doubts as to the powers of persons specially appointed to hold preliminary criminal inquiries concerning capital offences and to make further provision concerning such inquiries.

17. An Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 7 of 1896.

18. An Ordinance to prevent the employment as masters and mates of British ships of persons who do not hold certificates.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

According to the last census returns (1891) there were 2,636 Protestants and 12,608 Roman Catholics in the Archipelago.

The following is the list of the clergy in Seychelles :—

Church of England.

Civil Chaplain	1
Minister, South Mahé	1
Minister for Praslin	1
Evangelists and Catechists	10

Church of Rome.

Bishop	1
Priests	13
Lay Brethren of the Capucin Order ...	2
Marists Brothers	8
Sisters of St. Joseph	52

HARBOUR.

The following return shows the number of vessels, their nationality, tonnage, &c., which entered Port Victoria during 1896 :—

Nationality.	Merchant Vessels.		Men-of-War.			Mail Steamers.		Number of men.
	No. of vessels	Registered Tonnage	No. of vessels	Tonnage	No. of guns	No. of vessels	Tonnage	
British ..	29	6,771	7	14,934	72	24	43,570	3,842
French ..	1	1,319	—	—	—	6	26,972	969
German ..	—	—	1	1,642	11	—	—	162
Portuguese..	—	—	1	729	4	—	—	100
Austrian ..	—	—	1	1,370	9	—	—	224
Norwegian ..	1	329	—	—	—	—	—	10
Danish ..	1	803	—	—	—	—	—	13
	32	9,222	10	18,675	96	30	70,542	5,320

Seventy-two vessels, manned by 5,320 men, entered Port Victoria in 1896 :—

		Tons.
10	Men-of-war	18,675
30	Mail steamers	70,542
32	Merchant vessels	9,222
72		98,439

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

Rainfall.

The amount of rainfall during the year 1896 was 115·08, being 22·25 above the average for the previous four years—

1892	1893	1894	1895
87·45	87·77	95·08	101·03

Average 92·83.

Number of days on which rain was registered, 151.

Temperature.

Highest max. in shade 87·2, May 12th.
Lowest min. in „ 68·, September 27th.

Average temperature for the year as follows :—

Max. in shade 83·
Min. „ „ 76·8 } mean difference 6·2.

SAVINGS BANK.

The following statement gives the deposits and withdrawals of the Savings Bank since its establishment in 1894.

Year.	Balance on 1st January.	Deposits during year.	Total 31st December.	Amounts withdrawn during year.	Balance.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1894	open 5th March	27,113	27,113	10,199	16,914
	Rs.				
1895	16,914	27,881	44,795	25,946	18,849
1896	18,849	33,530	52,379	18,866	33,513

GENERAL REMARKS.

I stated in my last annual report that the Messageries Maritimes Company have unfortunately abandoned Seychelles and that we are now entirely dependent on the British India Company's steamers for our mails and goods. The irregularity with which these steamers run is a great drawback and seriously affects the mercantile community.

The vanilla crop of last year is the largest that has ever been grown in Seychelles—63,000 lbs. The prices ruling during the year on the London and Paris markets have also been most favourable, and the value of the crop has been declared at Rs. 936,000.

The large output of vanilla has given a fresh impetus to its cultivation and a very large quantity has been planted during the past year.

When the country is opened up by means of roads, as will shortly be the case, many acres of vanilla land will no doubt be taken up which at present are uncultivated, owing to the difficulty of transport.

In one district alone, the Mare aux Cochons, to which a new road will be opened, there are about 5,000 acres of virgin soil well suited to vanilla.

The cultivation of vanilla only dates back to about 20 years ago, and is only now beginning to be thoroughly understood.

The Mexican system of allowing the vines to grow under trees nearly wild is almost universally adopted at present, and is a decided improvement on the old system of training the vines on artificial supports. I trust that the new mode of cultivating it will go far to ensure regular crops. Nothing pays better than vanilla. Its production costs the planter Rs. 3 per pound, and as prices vary from Rs. 8 to Rs. 16

the pound, a net profit of from Rs. 5 to Rs. 13 is the result. This year the average price was Rs. 15 the pound. The yield may be taken to be 200 lbs. an acre.

Taking therefore an average of Rs. 10, an acre of vanilla should produce Rs. 2,000.

Most of the land in Seychelles is in the hands of private owners, and it is difficult to estimate its cost, but it may be taken that land can be bought at from Rs. 100 to Rs. 200 the acre. It has been stated that landowners are reluctant to part with their land, but I do not apprehend much difficulty on this score provided that purchasers are prepared to pay ready money.

There is some land belonging to the Government well adapted for vanilla cultivation which can be leased for periods varying from 9 to 21 years.

Seychelles is unfortunately almost a *terra incognita*, for I cannot help thinking that if the scores of young Englishmen who leave the mother country year after year for other lands knew of it, they would give the preference to an English colony which offers advantages not to be met with elsewhere for the investment of small capital, say £1,000.

In 1882 the yield of vanilla was 2,400 lbs., whereas last year, as stated above, it was 63,000 lbs.

A very considerable quantity of Liberian coffee is now grown in Mahé.

The trees are healthy and vigorous. The following note has been given to me by one of the most experienced of our planters as to the results which may be expected from the planting of Liberian coffee :—

"A year after planting the seeds the young plants should be transplanted, two years after that they commence to bear a few berries, and four years after they have been transplanted they give about 3 lbs. of dry coffee berry per tree. When the trees attain their full development, after seven years, a return of 8 lbs. a tree can be counted upon."

The price of Liberian coffee at present is half a rupee per pound.

The agricultural resources of Seychelles are being slowly but surely developed, and when the country is opened up by roads, as I have every reason to expect will be the case within the next two years, the material prosperity of these Islands will, I am sure, be greatly increased.

H. COCKBURN STEWART,

Administrator.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 208.

SIERRA LEONE.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1896.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 170.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

September 1897.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 1-3, Great St. Thomas Apostle, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.;
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, Hanover Street, Edinburgh, and
90, West Nile Street, Glasgow; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., Limited, 104, Grafton Street, Dublin.

1897.

[C.—8650–6.] *Price* 1½*d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
175	Falkland Islands	1895
176	St. Helena	,,
177	Bahamas	,,
178	Hong Kong	,,
179	Windward Islands	,,
180	Labuan	,,
181	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
182	Seychelles	,,
183	Mauritius and Rodrigues	1894 and 1895
184	British Honduras	1895
185	Lagos	,,
186	Basutoland	1895–96
187	Ceylon	1895
188	British Guiana	1895–96
189	Gold Coast	1895
190	Jamaica	1895–96
191	Canada	1895
192	Bermuda	1896
193	Bahamas	,,
194	Zululand	,,
195	Gambia	,,
196	Malta	,,
197	British New Guinea...	1895–96
198	Turks and Caicos Islands	1896
199	Barbados	,,
200	Leeward Islands	1895
201	Trinidad and Tobago	1896
202	Gibraltar	,,
203	Fiji (Trade)	,,
204	Straits Settlements	1895
205	Do. do.	1896
206	Falkland Islands	,,
207	British Honduras	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong...	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.

No. 208.

SIERRA LEONE.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 170 of this Series.)

ACTING GOVERNOR CAULFEILD to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Freetown, Sierra Leone,
10th July, 1897.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Report on the Blue Book of the Colony of Sierra Leone for the year 1896, which has been prepared by the Colonial Secretary, Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Gore.

The Blue Book itself will soon be ready, but the Colonial Secretary informs me he is still waiting for Treasury Returns and Statistics from the Supreme Court to complete the compilation.

I have, &c.
J. E. CAULFEILD,
Administrator.

REPORT ON BLUE BOOK, 1896, OF THE COLONY OF SIERRA LEONE.

1. TAXES AND DUTIES.

Ordinance No. 18 of 1896, which came into operation on the 1st August, 1896, increased the Ad Valorem duty from 7½ to 10 per cent., and the Specific duty on Salt from 3s. to 8s. per ton. The duty on Sugar refined was reduced from 10s. per cwt. to 7s. 6d. per cwt., and on unrefined Sugar from 5s. per cwt. to 2s. 6d. per cwt., while Bread, or Biscuit in barrels, and Flour (both of which formerly came under the Ad Valorem duty of 7½ per cent.), are now charged for specifically as follows :—

Bread, for every 50 cwt. or fractional part thereof ... 3d.
Flour in barrels or half-barrels, for every 50 lbs. or fractional part thereof ... ... 3d.

There is still no export duty.

14441*—75—8/97 Wt 20613 D & S—5 (B)

SIERRA LEONE. 1896.

2. REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue.

The estimated Revenue for 1896 was £105,741. The sum actually realised fell short of this amount by £8,631 13s., being £97,109 7s.

The estimated Customs receipts were £86,760, whereas the sum realised amounted only to £76,888 9s. 7d., being £9,871 10s. 5d. below the estimate. The difference of £2,125 14s. 9d. between the total Customs receipts shown here and the figures shown under the head of Imports and Exports, viz.: £74,762 14s. 10d. is caused by the sum of £2,125 14s. 9d. being received at Sherbro during the last two days of 1895, for spirits withdrawn from bond there, and brought to account in the Treasury books in 1896, whereas it really formed a portion of the 1895 assets.

There were other losses under various heads of service amounting to £2,543 2s. 3d., but gains under other heads amounting to £3,782 19s. 8d., making the amount short realised as shown above, viz.: £8,631 13s.

Expenditure.

The estimated expenditure for 1896 was £109,201 14s. 10d., whereas the amount actually expended was £116,182 18s. 9d., being £6,981 3s. 11d. in excess.

This excess was caused by unprovided for and unforeseen expenses, chiefly as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Anglo-French Boundary Commission -	4,112	0	0
Excess on vote for passages caused by invaliding of Officers, &c. - -	458	0	0
Excess on Governor's tours, i.e. Special Service Officer being appointed to accompany the Governor - -	719	0	0
Excess under head of Pensions - -	491	14	10
Frontier Police—Re-arming, &c. - -	705	4	10
Customs Department—Additional cost of Preventive Service, necessary on account of change in tariff - -	648	2	0
Purchase of Farm for Botanic Station -	660	0	0
Protectorate- - - - - - -	383	9	0
	£8,176	10	8

There were, however, savings under other heads of Service.

3. Assets and Liabilities.

The Assets on the 31st December, 1896, exceeded the Liabilities by £19,355 7s. 3d.

N.B. This falling off in the excess of Assets is due to the fact that the Crown Agents for the Colonies advanced from time to time sums of money, amounting in all to £79,908 7s. 2d., in place of raising the loan authorized under the Railway Loan Ordinance to meet the expenses of the railway service (vide Copy of Statement attached).

4. Public Debt.

£50,000 raised in 1871-73 for constructing Harbour Works, to be repaid in 1896-98. £25,000 was paid off in June, 1896, and there is sufficient to repay the remaining £25,000, but this cannot be done until June, 1898. The Sinking Fund for the redemption of the remaining £25,000 amounted to £24.550 3s. 3d. on 31st December, 1896.

5. Municipality.

The Council consists of a Mayor and 15 Councillors, 3 of whom are appointed by the Government, the others being elected by the people.

COLONY OF SIERRA LEONE.

STATEMENT of ASSETS and LIABILITIES on 31st December, 1896.

ASSETS.	Amount.	LIABILITIES.	Amount.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Cash in Colonial Chest on 31st December, 1896, as per Certificate of Board of Survey	3,706 0 10	Balance due to Crown Agents as per account to 31st December, 1896...	79,908 7 2
Cash in hands of Crown Agents as per Account to 31st December, 1896	10,164 13 3	Deposits	8,384 15 7
Advances due to Colony, including Sierra Leone Railway, £50,414 17s. 10d.	58,366 19 10	Do. Post Office Savings Bank...	38,437 3 8
Arrears of Revenue due...	331 17 11	Salaries and other expenses unpaid 31st Dec., 1896	7,552 6 9
Investments. General Service accumulated £42,629 13s. 4d. Cash paid in purchase	41,198 0 0		
Steamer Depreciation Fund accumulated £6,643 6s. 1d. Cash paid in purchase	6,695 3 1		
Post Office Savings Bank accumulated £33,613 16s. 5d. Cash paid in purchase ...	33,175 5 6		134,282 13 2
		Excess of Assets...	19,355 7 3
£	153,638 0 5	£	153,638 0 5

STATEMENT showing the outstanding LOANS, together with the amount of accumulated SINKING FUND on 31st December, 1896.

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Sinking Fund for Public Works Loan accumulated £24,550 3s. 3d. Cash paid in purchase	24,648 5 8	Loan due by Colony to Public Works Loan 1871-73 Redeemable in 1896-98	25,000 0 0
Excess of Liabilities...	351 14 4		
£	25,000 0 0	£	25,000 0 0

NOTE.—Reduction in excess of Assets due to Crown Agents advancing money required for Railway instead of raising same under Railway Loan Ordinance; to be adjusted when Loan is raised. £5,000 was invested for Savings' Bank in January, 1897.

Colonial Treasury, Freetown, 14th June, 1897

S. M. BENNETT, Acting Colonial Treasurer.

6. MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

The Colony does not contribute towards the up-keep of the Troops.

The Local Expenditure incurred by the Imperial Government for the year amounted to £64,421 2s. 8d., as against £60,382 8s. 3d. in the previous year.

The Garrison consists of a European Detachment of Royal Artillery, a Native Battery of West African Artillery, a Detachment of Fortress Engineers, and a Battalion of the West India Regiment.

The Troops receive an allowance as compensation for Customs duties paid by them. This amounted to £1,279 14s. 6d. as against £1,338 last year.

There is no Militia.

7. THE SIERRA LEONE FRONTIER POLICE.

The establishment of this force in 1896 was as follows :—

1	Inspector General
6	Inspectors
5	Assistant Inspectors
5	Sub-Inspectors (Natives)
1	Sergeant-Major
1	Quarter-Master-Sergeant
1	Paymaster's Clerk
1	Orderly Room Clerk
5	Company Pay Clerks
20	Sergeants
20	Corporals
8	Buglers (boys)
450	Privates
524	

The Force, which is recruited from the Timini and Mendi tribes, is divided into 5 Companies, the head-quarters being in Freetown. Each Company consists of 1 Inspector, 1 Assistant Inspector, 1 Sub-Inspector, 8 Non-commissioned Officers, and 90 Privates, stationed as under :—

A	Company,	Freetown and Ronietta	district.
B	,,	Bandajuma	,,
C	,,	Falaba	,,
D	,,	Karina	,,
E	,,	Pangumah	,,

Schools are established at head-quarters and in each district, for the instruction of those men who cannot read or write.

The Force is armed with the Martini-Metford carbine.

8. PUBLIC WORKS.

The Expenditure on Public Works, repairs to buildings, roads, streets, and bridges, amounted to £6,606 2s. 2d. as against £7,831 in the previous year, the sum estimated being £7,480.

No special Public Works were undertaken.

9. LEGISLATION.

34 Ordinances were passed during the year as against 20 in 1895, Nos. 1 and 2, i.e. "The General Loan and Inscribed Stock Ordinance 1896," and "Sierra Leone Railway Loan and Inscribed Stock Ordinance 1896," being necessary in order to raise the sum of £150,000 to start the first railway in British West Africa.

Ordinance No. 9.—"Human Leopard Society Ordinance." This was considered necessary in order to give greater facilities for the detection of Leopard Murders in the Imperri Country, and it appears to have had a good effect.

Ordinance No. 10.—"The Law Officers Ordinance, 1896." This was necessary on account of the abolition of the office of Queen's Advocate, and the appointment of two officers to be called the Attorney-General and the Solicitor-General respectively.

Ordinance No. 17.—"The Sierra Leone Railway Ordinance, 1896." This was necessary to give power to the Governor to establish and maintain Railways, and to take and purchase lands for the same. It also empowers the Engineer to enter upon lands so taken and purchased, and to construct, maintain and repair Railways.

Ordinance No. 18.—"The Customs Duties Amendment Ordinance, 1896." This Ordinance was passed in order to increase the Ad Valorem duty from 7½ per cent. to 10 per cent., the Specific duty on Salt from 3s. to 8s. per ton, and to reduce the duties on Sugar, Bread and Flour, and it came into operation from 1st August, 1896.

Ordinance No. 19.—"Foreign Service Employment Ordinance, 1896." The Ordinance was introduced to restrict the recruiting of labourers for service outside the Colony, and to control the same.

Ordinances Nos. 20 and 21, "The Protectorate Ordinance, 1896," and "The Protectorate Jurisdiction Delimitation Ordinance, 1896." These were necessary owing to the Protectorate proclaimed over the territories adjacent to the Colony on the 31st August, 1896, to determine the mode of exercising jurisdiction, and to define the limits of the said Protectorate.

Ordinance No. 33, "The Gold Coast Political Prisoners' Detention Ordinance, 1896." This was passed under instructions from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State to confer on

the Governor of Sierra Leone the necessary power for the detention of Ex-King Prempeh, deported from the Gold Coast, with other Political Prisoners, to be detained in Sierra Leone under legal custody.

The remaining Ordinances do not call for any special comment.

10. CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

The following changes occurred in the Civil Establishment of the Colony during the year :—

The Honourable E. Bruce Hindle, Attorney General of the Gold Coast, appointed Chief Justice.

Honourable P. Crampton Smyly, Queen's Advocate, to be Attorney General.

R. J. Van Ryck De Groot appointed Solicitor General.

D. F. Wilbraham appointed Master of Supreme Court, vice Mr. de Groot promoted.

John Cleugh appointed Colonial Postmaster General.

W. E. Inniss, Colonial Surveyor, retired on pension.

F. H. Stone, C.E., appointed Chief Assistant Surveyor.

G. L. Brooks appointed Superintendent of Police, vice Captain Lapham, retired.

J. M. Robin appointed Inspector of Police, vice Mr. G. L. Brooks, promoted.

R. C. Grannum appointed Local Auditor, vice Mr. Cuddeford, promoted.

C. H. Hunter appointed Assistant Colonial Secretary, vice Mr. Faulkner, appointed District Commissioner.

Captain Mayne appointed Assistant Inspector Frontier Police.

Dr. F. Copeland appointed Assistant Colonial Surgeon.

A. G. Lloyd appointed Chief Clerk and Cashier, Treasury, vice Mr. M. A. Potts, retired.

J. C. Smith appointed Assistant Postmaster, vice W. Hughes appointed Assistant District Commissioner, Imperri, Sherbro District.

The Honourable Colonel Caulfeild, and the Honourable Lieut.-Colonel Gore, Colonial Secretary, received appointments as Deputy Governor, and Lieut.-Colonel Bayley as Administrator, during His Excellency's absence from Head Quarters.

SIERRA LEONE. 1896.

The Honourable Sir Samuel Lewis, C.M.G., Kt., Mayor of Freetown, and Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council, was appointed a Knight Bachelor on the 1st January, 1896.

11. PENSIONS.

The sum paid on account of Pensions and other retiring allowances in 1896 was £3,543 14s. 10d., as against £2,454 5s. 0d. in 1895, being an increase over last year of £1,089 9s. 10d.

12. POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

There has been no Census taken since 1891.

Births and Deaths.

The total number of Births registered was 1,541 and Deaths 1,632, as against Births 1,445 and Deaths 1,509 last year.

13. ECCLESIASTICAL.

There are 130 Places of Worship belonging to the various Christian denominations in the Colony, and, according to the latest returns, the number of persons professing Christianity was about 42,000.

14. EDUCATION.

The number of Schools inspected and examined during the year 1895-6 was 67.

The Infant Department of the College School was inspected as a separate and distinct department this year.

The Mohammedan School, Fourah Bay, was visited quarterly during the year, and the Mendi Mission School, at Bonthe, was visited during the inspection of the Sherbro Schools.

The number of children present during inspection was 6,850—viz., 3,693 boys and 3,157 girls. This is a small increase over the number present last year.

The number of children on the School rolls at the end of the year is 8,280, and the average attendance 5,926.

The amount earned by the Schools under Government grants in aid was £1,345 14s. 11½d., as against £932 7s. 0d. last year—viz., an increase of £413 7s. 11d. This means an increase in 1895-6 to the School fund of upwards of £206, the other portion of the £413 7s. 11d. being an increase over last year to the teachers' annual bonuses.

The 1st Annual Competitive Exhibition of School Work was held on December 18th, 1895, at the Wilberforce Memorial Hall. The Exhibition was well attended by the public, and was very fairly successful. Twenty-four Schools (comprising 196 competitors) took part in the competitions in all the subjects on the list.

On the 17th December, 1896, the 2nd Exhibition of School Work was held, and the number of exhibits was twice the number as compared with that at the 1st Exhibition, which was very satisfactory.

Both the Annie Walsh School and the Technical School were represented on this occasion, with the view of encouraging the Elementary Schools, but, of course, not as competitors.

The Technical Institution was formally opened by His Excellency the Governor on the 25th January, 1896, and did good work during the year in the advancement of technical education.

Two Weekly Newspapers, "The Sierra Leone Weekly News" and "The Sierra Leone Times," are published in Freetown.

15. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The total value, the direction of the trade of the Colony, and the Customs duties realized during the year 1896, are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
From the United Kingdom - -	403,053	7	7
„ „ British Colonies - - -	12,451	12	7
„ „ Foreign Countries - -	79,183	0	3
Total value - -	£494,688	0	5

	£	s.	d.
Customs duty, Specific - - -	52,669	1	8
„ „ Ad Valorem - -	22,093	13	2
Total duty - -	£74,762	14	10

There has been a net increase in the Imports generally, viz.:—

	£	s.	d.
From the United Kingdom - -	66,638	19	4
„ „ British Colonies - -	6,697	3	5

as compared with last year and a decrease of Imports from Foreign Countries of £5,985 17s. 8d.

SIERRA LEONE. 1896.

The net increase on Imports in 1896 is £67,350 as follows :—

(*a.*) Articles liable to Specific duty.

Ale and Porter - -	£1,122
Bread - - - -	261
Flour - - - -	2,750
Gunpowder - - -	1,404
Hardware - - -	6,412
Lumber - - - -	2,652
Medicines - - -	2,348
Oil, Kerosine - - -	976
Salt - - - -	1,490

Bread and Flour in barrels were for the greater portion of the year rated under Ad Valorem duty, but under Ordinance No. 18 of 1896 they became liable to Specific duty from the 1st August last.

(*b.*) Articles liable to Ad Valorem duty.

Apparel - - - -	£1,451
Beads - - - -	2,166
Cotton Goods - -	20,450
Haberdashery - -	3,267
Hats and Caps - -	487
Silk, Manufactured- -	565
Woollen Goods - -	1,255

(*c.*) Free Goods.

Calabashes - - -	£1,336
Country Cloths - -	455
Coals - - - -	4,323
Specie - - - -	11,673

The total value of goods imported by the Colonial Government was £26,574 as against £7,081 in 1895, showing an increase of £19,493, being chiefly the value of materials imported for the construction of the Railway.

There was a falling off in the value of importations by the Imperial Government to the extent of £8,836, which is more than double the decrease of the previous year.

The value of goods warehoused in 1896 was £71,471 as against £84,978 in 1895, a decrease of £13,507.

Goods entered for Home Consumption in 1896 were valued at £424,801 as against £370,479 in 1895, being an increase of £54,322.

The decreases in Imports were chiefly under articles liable to Specific duty, viz. :—

Refined Sugar - - - -	£404
Geneva - - - - - -	8,804
Rum - - - - - -	7,737
Whisky, Brandy and other Spirits -	213

Notwithstanding the large diminution in the most important articles of commerce (Geneva and Rum) upon which a large proportion of the Revenue is derived, it is worthy of note that the increase in other items of trade have more than counter-balanced the loss and yielded an increase in the total volume of trade to the extent of nearly 16 per cent. The alteration in the tariff in regard to the levying duty on Spirits, by Ordinance No. 19 of 1895, which came into force on 1st January 1896, is mainly responsible for the above-mentioned decrease, and of the consequent loss of revenue on same; it is nevertheless gratifying to observe that a superior quality of Spirits is now being imported for consumption by the natives—an object aimed at when that Ordinance was introduced. Other merchandise imported from the United Kingdom amounted to £403,053 in 1896, showing an increase of £66,639, or 16½ per cent. over similar imports in 1895.

The Imports from British Colonies were valued at £12,452 in 1896, showing an increase of £6,698 over those of 1895, the value of which was £5,754.

The value of Imports from America was £36,187 in 1896 as against £33,416 in 1895, an increase of £2,771; from Germany £26,336 as against £33,426 in 1895; and from France £7,301 in 1896 against £8,403 in the previous year. The Imports from other Foreign Countries are unimportant. The total Imports from Foreign Countries were £79,183 against £85,169 in 1895.

Exports.

The total value of Exports in 1896 was £449,033 against £452,604 in the previous year, showing a decrease of £3,571 or about ¾ per cent.

Under the head of African Produce the following increases were noticed, viz.:—

Benni Seed - - -	£8,676
Gum - - - -	3,348
Hides - - - -	8,952

while the below-mentioned articles disclosed the decreases shown opposite them:—

Cola nuts - - -	£2,516
Ginger - - - -	1,989
Palm Oil - - -	5,845
Palm Kernels - - -	3,759
Rubber - - - -	7,744
Rice - - - -	1,752
Other articles - - -	3,622

SIERRA LEONE. 1896.

The net decrease under African Produce amounted to £6,250 in 1896, when compared with the returns for 1895. This is in a great measure due to the action of some of the Native Chiefs in the districts of the Protectorate, who, being dissatisfied with the new fiscal arrangements in regard to the mode of levying duty on spirits, placed what is locally known as "Porroh Law" on the collection of Native Produce, notably Palm Nuts, *i.e.* the natives being prohibited from gathering and selling the products of their farms.

The total value of European Manufacture exported from the Colony in 1896 was £99,121 as against £96,442 in 1895, giving an increase of £2,679, which arose principally on Specie and Hardware.

The value of Exports to the United Kingdom was £203,495 against £206,873 in 1895, showing a decrease of £3,378.

British Colonies are credited with exports to the value of £21,895 against £21,792 in 1895.

Exports to America were valued at £1,110 against £1,117 in 1895. The trade with America shows that we receive thirty times more in value than we give back to that country, which is the principal source from which we get most of the lumber, kerosine, flour, and bread imported.

Exports to Germany amounted in value to £103,209 against £106,552 in 1895, and to France £26,891 against £26,310 in the previous year. The total exports to Foreign Countries amounted to £223,643 against £223,939 in 1895.

These figures prove that the bulk of our trade is with Europe, about half of the total value of which is taken to the United Kingdom.

16. SHIPPING.

The total number and tonnage of sailing and steam vessels entered at Ports in the Colony during the year 1896 was :—

	No.	Tonnage.
Sailing Vessels - - -	384	11,697
Steam „ - - -	391	562,933
	775	574,630

The number and tonnage of vessels cleared was :—

	No.	Tonnage.
Sailing Vessels - - -	371	10,405
Steam „ - - -	393	527,225
	764	537,630

The aggregate tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in 1896 was: steamships, 1,090,158; sailing vessels, 22,102; giving a total of 1,112,260 tons.

Customs Revenue.

The total Customs receipts in 1896 were £79,328, showing a decrease of £8,190 when compared with 1895, which amounted to £87,518. The Ad Valorem duty was increased from 7½ per cent. to 10 per cent. from 1st August 1896, and this gave an increase of £4,988 over the amount realized in the year 1895, but this was absorbed by the large deficiency in the sum realized on account of Specific duty, which was less by £12,804 than the amount collected in 1895.

There were also decreases of £55 and £236 respectively under Light Dues and Warehouse Rent.

17. AGRICULTURE.

The Botanic station opened last year has been extended and many plants new to the Colony have been introduced.

At the Agricultural Exhibition held this year, the Curator exhibited samples of Coffee, Cocoa, Fibres, Gum, &c., besides machinery for preparing Coffee for the market.

It has also been ascertained that there are large tracts of country in the Protectorate in which the valuable rubber-tree (Kickxia Africana) abounds.

18. GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

The number of Prisoners committed to and received in the Gaols of the Colony during the year were :—

	1896.	1895.
Freetown Gaol - -	532	508
Sherbro - - -	88	115
Waterloo District - -	44	61
	664	684

The number of Prisoners sentenced during the year to Penal imprisonment in Freetown Gaol was 402 as against 346 in 1895, and the number committed for safe custody till trial was 130.

The total number of persons committed to the Freetown Gaol during the year 1896 was 532, viz., 501 men, 24 women, and 7 juveniles.

The daily average number in prison for the year was 154, the number of admissions to the Gaol Hospital was 65, the daily average on the Sick list was 20, and there was only one death.

The total annual cost of the Prison during the year was £2,873 4s. 10¾d., exclusive of Repairs and also of Prison Officers' Uniforms.

19. CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

There were 1,324 persons charged before the Police Magistrate's Court during the year; of this number 439 were discharged for want of prosecution, 193 discharged on the merits after a hearing, 618 summarily convicted, showing an increase of 191 as compared with 1895, and 74 referred to the Sessions of the Supreme Court for trial, as against 79 in the previous year.

The total number of offences against the person was 155, showing an increase of 15 over last year.

Larceny.—There were 150 cases dealt with summarily as against 126 in previous year, and 14 referred for trial as against 30 in 1895.

Burglary and Housebreaking.—There were 37 cases as against 30 last year.

In regard to the Sherbro District there was a decrease in the number of charges generally. The total number of persons apprehended by the Police was 226 as compared with 261 in 1895 and 272 in 1894.

There were 78 cases of Larceny, and 61 convictions, being a decrease of 5 as against last year.

There was on the whole a considerable falling off in crime in the Sherbro and Imperri Districts.

Other Offences.—There were 308 cases as against 155 in the previous year. This is probably in a great measure due to the vigilance exercised by the Police in enforcing the provisions of the Sanitary Ordinance, &c.

Drunkenness.—Only 20 persons were convicted for Drunkenness during the year, and this is, as the Police Magistrate remarks, "A matter for sincere congratulation considering the large population of Freetown," *i.e.* about 45,000.

20. HOSPITALS.

The total number of persons admitted into the various Hospitals of the Colony during the year was 1,359, viz., 1,008 males and 35 females, and the number of deaths 158, viz., 107 males and 51 females.

The sanitary condition of the Hospitals was fairly satisfactory.

Freetown Gaol Hospital.

The sanitary condition of the Gaol has been, as in the past, very satisfactory.

The average daily number of Prisoners on the sick list was 7.19.

21. Lunatic Asylum.

There were 19 admissions and 9 deaths in the Lunatic Asylum.

The building is still in a very dilapidated condition and requires to be rebuilt.

22. Charitable Institutions.

There are no Almshouses or other Charitable Institutions, but the Colonial Government votes annually £400 towards the relief of the poor, and this grant is distributed monthly by three Charity Commissioners.

The Princess Christian Cottage Hospital, opened in 1892, still continues to do excellent work and to be most useful.

23. Railways, Canals, Roads, &c.

The Sierra Leone Railway.

The construction of this railway between Freetown and Songo Town was commenced this year, and good progress was made under the local management of Mr. W. Bradford, 3½ miles having been completed, and 6½ miles laid out. Total expenditure to 31st December, 1896, £52,455 10s. 2d. This includes cost of preliminary survey, viz. :—£2,668 12s. 3d.

General Remarks.

On the 1st of January a telegram was received from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, notifying the fact that Her Majesty the Queen had been pleased to confer the dignity of a Knight Bachelor on the Honourable Samuel Lewis, C.M.G., B.L., Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council and first Mayor of the City of Freetown.

On the 22nd of January was received the sad intelligence of the death at sea (on board H.M.S. "Blonde," on the 20th instant) of H.R.H. Prince Henry Maurice of Battenberg. A Memorial Service was held in the Cathedral on that day, at which all Public Officials were present.

SIERRA LEONE. 1896.

The Public Health.

The Public Health throughout the Colony was fairly good. There was a certain amount of small-pox introduced as usual through the influx of native traders and others from the interior during the dry season, and it was necessary to take every precaution to prevent its spread, particularly in the Sherbro District, where vaccination was extensively carried out.

The number of deaths among Europeans was, however, 11, as against 6 in the previous year, and 6 European Officials died, while 6 were invalided. The causes of death were as follows :—

1 Sunstroke.
2 Remittent Fever.
5 Malarial Fever.
1 Uremia.
1 Syncope.
1 Pistol shot wound, while temporarily insane.

11

Rainfall.

The rainfall for the year was 176·07 inches as against 99·3 in 1895.

An alarming fire occurred on the early morning of the 9th January, being the work of an incendiary who was ultimately convicted and sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment with hard labour. A block of buildings in Water Street was burnt to the ground, and at one time the vegetable market was in considerable danger.

The first Agricultural Exhibition was held on the 23rd January at the Wilberforce Memorial Hall. The exhibits comprised exportable produce, liquids, foodstuffs, preserves, vegetables, flowers, cattle, sheep, goats, and pigs, &c., &c. It was well attended.

Boundary between Sierra Leone and French Guinea.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. K. Trotter, R.A., British Representative on the Sierra Leone Anglo-French Boundary Commission, left Freetown for the interior on the 16th December, 1895, accompanied by Lieutenant A. H. Tyler, R.E., Assistant Commissioner, and Dr. I. N. Paris, Assistant Colonial Surgeon. They returned to Freetown on the 5th May after completing their work.

Governor's Tours.

His Excellency the Governor accompanied by his Private Secretary left Freetown in the Colonial steamer on the 28th

January, en route to the hinterland, Mr. J. C. E. Parkes, Superintendent of Native Affairs, having started the previous day overland, viâ Waterloo, with carriers, stores, &c.

The Governor returned to Freetown by the Colonial steamer, which met him at Bonthe, Sherbro, on the 5th April, accompanied by Major S. C. Grant, R.E., who was attached to His Excellency's staff on special service, and Mr. J. C. E. Parkes, Superintendent of Native Affairs.

The route taken by the Governor on this occasion follows the course of the Rokel or Sell River as far as Benkia, thence through Matotoka to Makali, across the Kuniki country to Kro or Kruto, then due east to Tembi-Kundo, the source of the Niger, from thence due south along the Anglo-Liberian frontier ot Kare-Lahun, thence through the Luawa and Bombali districts ot Yandahu, and thence through Taiama, Bulma, Bandasuma, Bandajuma, and Mafue to Bonthe.

The Protectorate.

A Protectorate was proclaimed on the 21st August over the territories within the British sphere of influence adjacent to the Colony of Sierra Leone. On the 15th September, an Ordinance to determine the mode of exercising Her Majesty's jurisdiction in these territories, and intituled "The Protectorate Ordinance," was passed, and on the 16th of the following month, an Ordinance defining the limits and boundaries within which such jurisdiction for judicial and administrative purposes should be exercised was also passed.

For administrative purposes these territories now called "The Protectorate" were divided into 5 districts which coincide with those which already existed for purposes of Police control. The districts are styled Karene, Ronietta, Bandajuma, Pangoma, and Koinadugu.

The area of the Protectorate is about 30,000 square miles. There is no data by which to estimate its population, but it may be taken as between a quarter and half a million.

District Commissioners with their staffs were appointed, and the Protectorate Ordinance put in force the latter end of October.

Three Courts of Law are established in each district :—

1. The Court of the Native Chiefs.
2. The Court of the District Commissioner and Native Chiefs.
3. The Court of the District Commissioner.

All Civil cases and the lesser Criminal ones arising exclusively between Natives are determined in the Court of the Native Chiefs.

SIERRA LEONE. 1896.

The Court of the District Commissioner and Native Chiefs has jurisdiction in all graver Criminal matters and offences arising exclusively between Natives, and the Court of the District Commissioner in all Civil and Criminal cases between Natives and persons not Natives, except Capital Offences, when the accused is committed to the Supreme Court of the Colony for trial, and also in the following cases, namely :—

Pretended witchcraft, slave-raiding, dealing in slaves, or cases arising out of faction or tribal fights, &c.

In all Civil and Criminal cases there is a right of appeal to the Supreme Court against the decision of a District Commissioner under certain circumstances.

The Revenue of the Protectorate will be derivable from licences and a house-tax, and the latter tax will come into force on the 1st January, 1898.

The establishment in each district consists of a District Commissioner and his staff, a District Surgeon, and a Company of Frontier Police, with the exception that in the Ronietta District the Police force is of the strength of a half Company only.

Until the Proclamation of the Protectorate, order was maintained in the territories embraced by it by the Frontier Police, and within the last few years, this force has been the means of quelling all inter-tribal warfare and slave-raiding and bringing the country into a state of peace and security, and this good result has now been further enhanced by the establishment of British tribunals and administration, the effect of which is already apparent in the number of natives, who, owing to the confidence inspired by British rule, are moving from the districts along the coast further inland for the purposes of trade, and there is therefore every hope of an increasing development of the natural products of the Protectorate in the near future.

J. C. GORE,
Colonial Secretary.

Freetown, Sierra Leone,
8th July, 1897.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

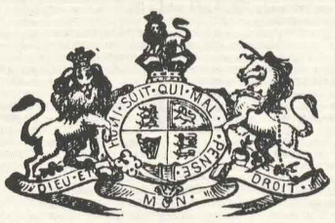
No. 204.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1895.

(For Report for 1894, *see* No. 149.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
September 1897.



LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 1-3, Great St. Thomas Apostle, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, Hanover Street, Edinburgh, and
90, West Nile Street, Glasgow; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., Limited, 104, Grafton Street, Dublin.

1897.

[C.—8650.–2.] *Price* 1*d*.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
172	Malta	1895
173	Barbados	,,
174	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
175	Falkland Islands	,,
176	St. Helena	,,
177	Bahamas	,,
178	Hong Kong	,,
179	Windward Islands	,,
180	Labuan	,,
181	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
182	Seychelles	,,
183	Mauritius and Rodrigues	1894 and 1895
184	British Honduras	1895
185	Lagos	,,
186	Basutoland	1895–96
187	Ceylon	1895
188	British Guiana	1895–96
189	Gold Coast	1895
190	Jamaica	1895–96
191	Canada	1895
192	Bermuda	1896
193	Bahamas	,,
194	Zululand	,,
195	Gambia	,,
196	Malta	,,
197	British New Guinea	1895–96
198	Turks and Caicos Islands	1896
199	Barbados	,,
200	Leeward Islands	1895
201	Trinidad and Tobago	1896
202	Gibraltar	,,
203	Fiji (Trade)	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.

No. 204.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

(For Report for 1894, *see* No. 149 of this Series.)

GOVERNOR SIR C. B. H. MITCHELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Singapore,
14th August, 1896.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward copies of the Colonial Secretary's Report on the Colony for the year 1895.

I have, &c.,

C. B. H. MITCHELL.

REPORT ON THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1895.

Financial.

1. The Revenue for 1895 amounted to $4,048,360, the three Settlements contributing as follows :—

Singapore - - - -	$2,290,642
Penang - - - -	1,418,521
Malacca - - - -	339,197

There was an increase of $143,586 as compared with the Revenue for 1894, and $342,051 as compared with the Revenue for 1893.

The principal increases were under the heads of Licenses ($112,011) and Reimbursements ($38,299). The increase in Licenses is mainly due to the fact that the fees for Public Houses, Opium and Spirit-shops and Warehouses were paid direct to the Treasury and not to the Farmer as formerly. There was also an increase from the re-letting of the Farms which took effect from the 1st January, 1895.

The increase under the head of Reimbursements, which is not strictly Revenue, was caused principally by the increased

14500*—75—8/97 Wt 20613 D & S—5 (B)

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS. 1895.

Contributions from the Municipalities of Singapore and Penang towards the cost of Police. There was also a marked increase in Hospital charges recovered, as well as in the Revenue derived from Postage and Fees of Office.

On the other hand, there was a decrease of $4,180 in the Fees for Pawnbrokers' Licenses, the increased rates having caused several shops to close. Land Revenue shews a decrease of $41,811, which is accounted for by there being fewer special sales of the Telok Ayer Reclamation land during 1895. Fees for Search, Registration, &c., which in 1894 produced $29,135, amounted in 1895 to $1,545. This is explained by the fact that the work of registration in Penang was removed from the Land Office in 1894, and the fees are now classed as Fees of Office.

The Expenditure for the year was $3,782,456, which shews an increase of $67,836 over 1894, but is less than the Expenditure for 1893 by $133,026. There was an increase of $54,928 in Postal expenditure, owing to payment in 1895 of certain arrears in respect of the years 1892 and 1894 then outstanding, and an increase of $41,278 in Military Expenditure. The expenditure in connection with the Defences of the Colony was $777,725. The question of the Colony's Defence Contribution, which had caused much irritation in the Colony for many years, finally resulting in the resignation of most of the Singapore Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council and of the unofficial holders of other appointments, was at length set at rest by the decision of the Home Government to fix the Contribution at 17½ per cent. of the gross Revenue, exclusive of that derived from Land Sales and Premium on Land.

This decision has been accepted by the Colony as a satisfactory settlement of the matter.

2. Appendix *A** shews the Assets and Liabilities of the Colony as they stood at the beginning of 1895 and 1896, respectively. The nett balance to the credit of the Colony on the 31st December, 1895, was $2,063,454, as compared with $1,748,939 on the same date in 1894. The Colony has no debt.

Generally speaking, it may be said that the finances of the Colony are in a more satisfactory condition than they have been for some years, and it is hoped that some of the projected public works which have so long been delayed from want of funds may now be taken in hand.

Exchange.

3. The rates of exchange between the local dollar and the British sovereign during the year are shewn in Appendix *B.** The average value of the dollar throughout 1895 was 2/1¼, and in bills at 4 months' sight 2/1½, as compared with 2/1¼ and 2/1⅝, respectively, in 1894.

* Not printed.

The estimated Bank Note circulation of the Colony on 31st December was $7,234,807. The Colony is at present dependent on the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, and the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation for its Bank Notes, but a Government note issue, guaranteed by the Colony, has been sanctioned, and will be introduced at an early date.

Municipalities.

The total Revenue of the three Municipalities was $1,146,280, and their Expenditure $1,092,383.

Legislation.

4. The Legislative Council held 20 meetings during the year, and 15 Ordinances were passed, the most important being "The Vision Ordinance," "The Telegraph Ordinance," "The Pawnbrokers Ordinance," and "The Theatres Ordinance."

"The Vision Ordinance" provides for the examination of masters, helmsmen, and gunners in colour vision and in Snellen's test for acuteness of vision for form.

"The Telegraph Ordinance" reserves to the Colonial Government the exclusive privilege of establishing telegraphs in the Colony, and provides for their working generally. Some of the existing telegraphs, although the property of the Colonial Government, have hitherto been constructed and maintained under no statutory authority.

"The Pawnbrokers Ordinance" provides penalties for certain offences by pawnbrokers, and is an addition to the existing law on the subject, the principal object being to render it more difficult for stolen property to be disposed of through the pawnshops. It has met with some opposition on the part of the pawnbrokers, but it is believed that there will be no insuperable difficulty in carrying out the law.

"The Theatres Ordinance" supplies a want which has been much felt in the Colony, the numerous theatres and performances usual in a Chinese population having been carried on hitherto with practically no control.

Registration of Deeds.

5. The Ordinance of 1886, which came into operation in Penang during the latter half of 1894, is now fairly established in that Settlement. The fees collected during the year amounted to $10,094, and in Singapore to $6,076.

The multiplication of small sub-divisions in the Northern Settlement formed the subject of discussion during the year, and resulted in an amendment of the law by which it is now necessary

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS. 1895.

that every sub-division shall be demarcated and surveyed before deeds relating to it can be received for registration. Provision is also made by which the Land Office becomes cognisant of every transaction affecting land.

Public Works.

6. The Sultan Shoal Light-house, which was commenced in August, 1894, was completed on the 31st December, 1895.

The Special Reclamation, Weld Quay, Penang, was well advanced at the end of the year.

No other works of any importance were executed during the year, except new barracks for the troops :—

Barracks for the Royal Engineers on Pulau Brani, overlooking the New Harbour, were commenced and pushed on with vigour, and considerable progress was made with barracks for the Royal Artillery on the adjacent island of Blakang Mati.

An addition to the existing Infantry barracks at Tanglin was commenced, to facilitate the future accommodation of the Penang detachment in Singapore.

Postal Department.

7. During the year under review, 5,756,940 articles passed through the Post Office of the Colony, as compared with 5,539,380 in 1894. The Registration, Insurance, and Parcel Post branches, as well as the Chinese Sub-Post Office, all shew steady progress.

The postal revenue amounted to $200,949, which is an excess of $11,157 over the income of the Department for the preceding year. The expenditure charged to 1895 was $204,105, being an excess of $54,607 over the expenditure of the year before. This large excess was caused by arrears, amounting to $25,132, for transit charges due to foreign countries for 1892 and 1893, having been paid in 1895, and to an item of $10,000 in respect of a subsidy paid by the Colony to the British India Steam Navigation Company to improve postal communication between the United Kingdom and Penang, *viâ* India. The expenditure exceeded the revenue by $3,158, but omitting the arrears referred to, the revenue would shew a surplus of $22,000 over the expenditure properly appertaining to 1895.

In consequence of more favourable rates of exchange having prevailed for remittances to gold-using countries and to India, there was a very large increase in the Money Order business done in 1895, in fact, greater than in any previous year. The transactions in sterling amounted to £9,939, in Indian currency to nearly Rs. 1,000,000, and in local currency to $200,000 ; the total business done aggregated $811,159, against a total of $671,231 in 1894.

Savings Bank.

8. Appendix *C** shews the particulars of the transactions at the branches in Singapore, Penang, and Malacca, during the year.

The amounts deposited during the year exceed the amounts for the previous year by $20,680, and the amounts for 1893 by $33,367.

The total sum at the credit of depositors on the 31st December, 1895, was $248,468, and the total amount deposited since the establishment of the Bank has been $1,362,493.

The sum invested, under Ordinance III. of 1891, in Government of India 3½ per cent. rupee paper is $186,179.

In September, the limit of deposits was increased from $250 to $500 in a year, and the aggregate amount from $750 to $1,500. From the 1st July, the interest allowed on deposits was reduced from 3½ to 3 per cent. on account of the reduction from 4 to 3½ per cent. in the interest on the Indian investments.

Education.

9. The number of schools inspected during the year and the number of pupils presented for examination were considerably less than in 1894. Two hundred and two schools were inspected and 7,734 pupils were presented.

The expenditure of the Education Department amounted to $180,847, as compared with $186,444 in 1894.

The results of the inspection of the aided schools do not, on the whole, appear to be so good as in recent years.

Population.

10. The number of births registered in 1895 in all the Settlements was 12,544, of which 6,565 were those of male, and 5,979 those of female children.

The deaths registered numbered 20,397, as against 17,234 in 1894, or an increase of 3,163, the highest rate of mortality having been recorded at Singapore. As in 1892, 1893 and 1894, the greatest number of deaths occurred among persons between the ages of 25 and 35.

Appendix *D** shews the number of births and deaths registered in each Settlement during the past two years.

The great preponderance of deaths over births is accounted for, as has been explained in previous reports, in great part, by the peculiarly constituted population of the Straits Settlements, less than a third of which, in consequence of the large amount of

* Not printed.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS. 1895.

male Chinese and Tamil immigration, is female; but in 1895 the death-rate was also unusually high.

The present population may be roughly estimated at 542,000. Statistics relating to the health of the Settlements during the year will be found lower down under the heading "Public Health."

An examination of the vaccination returns affords ground for suspicion that a considerable number of births are not reported.

Chinese and Indian Immigration.

11. The numbers of immigrants from China and India during 1895 and 1894 are shewn in Appendix *E.** There was a considerable increase in Chinese immigration, which had been almost entirely checked during the outbreak of plague in Hongkong in 1894.

The total number of Chinese deck passengers was 201,292, and of these, 36,388 signed contracts in the Chinese Protectorate, as compared with 22,302 in 1894.

There was also an increase in the Indian free immigrants, 14,413 arriving in the Colony, but the number of statute immigrants decreased. This decrease is partly due, no doubt, to the unfavourable exchange with India, which has not been counterbalanced by a sufficient increase in the wages of statute immigrants. It has been found necessary to partly re-organise the Indian Immigration Department, and arrangements have been made by which the Assistant Protector of Chinese at Penang will superintend both Chinese and Indian Immigration, his Department being strengthened by the appointment of a Tamil-speaking Assistant.

Trade.

12. The value of the imports and exports of the Colony in 1894 and 1895, respectively, are shewn in Appendix *F*.*

The trade of the year has not been altogether unsatisfactory, in spite of the depressed state of the home markets, largely on account of the continued cheapness of silver, which enables Eastern producers to compete at an advantage with their gold country rivals.

The value of the imports in merchandise from countries outside shews an increase of about $915,000 over the returns for 1894, but that of the exports shews a small decrease of about $169,000, while the sterling value of the dollar fell less than 2 per cent.

13. The total value of imports and exports for 1894 and 1895, deducting Treasure, is shewn in Appendix *G.** There was an

* Not printed.

increase in the silver value of Imports of $2,665,461, and of Exports of $2,071,194, making an aggregate dollar increase of $4,736,655. There were increases in the gold values respectively of £313,871 and £222,524, being an aggregate increase of £536,395.

Singapore shews increased trade with other countries on both sides, as also does Malacca, but Penang has decreases in both imports and exports.

Imports shew increases under Raw Materials—Metal, Manufactured Articles—Metal, and Textiles generally, except Cotton Piece Goods, which were above normal in 1894, and decreases under Food Stuffs, &c., chiefly Opium.

In exports, Tin shews a decrease in value of over 1½ million dollars, entirely on account of the low prices ruling. The average local quotation for the year was $35.10 per pikul, compared with $38 per pikul in 1894, and the average London prices were £63.8.4 and £68.3.9 per ton, respectively. Peppers and Copra also shew decreased values, but Gambier has a largely increased export value, as well as, to a smaller extent, Hides, Rattans and Gums generally, including Gutta Percha.

The imports of Merchandise from the United Kingdom decreased in value by about $696,000, but this is more than accounted for by the falling off in Cotton Piece Goods, in which there was a decrease of $1,756,000, not unexpected, considering that the previous year's imports were abnormal. Coal imported also fell in value by $450,000. Other Cotton Goods, such as Sarongs, &c., shew increased imports and so do other articles generally with the exception of Malt Liquors and Brandy.

Exports to the United Kingdom decreased by $1,732,000, Tin alone shewing a falling off of over 2¾ million dollars, and Gutta, Peppers, Rattans and Coffee also shewing less values exported. Increases are apparent in Preserved Fruits, Gambier, Tapioca, Gums generally, Sago and most of the Spices.

From British India and Burma, the imports valued $29,070,000, an increase of $1,361,000, attributable to increased imports of Rangoon Rice and Bran, Hides and Madras Sarongs and Kains. Imports of Opium fell by about a million dollars, and Cotton Twist also fell, but Gunnies and Coal shew increases. The exports amounted to $8,629,000, an increase of $210,000.

From Netherlands India, to the value of $27,896,000 were imported, a decrease of $1,809,000, on account of smaller supplies of Pepper, Sugar, Copra, Petroleum and other produce. The value of the exports was $31,514,000, being a small increase on the 1894 export value.

The value of the imports from Hongkong and China amounted to $19,707,000, an increase of $210,000 over last year, and $322,000 more than in 1893. Hongkong sent to the value of

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS. 1895.

$16,413,000, and China direct to the value of $3,295,000, compared with $16,205,000 from the former and $3,292,000 from the latter in 1894. The exports amounted to $12,266,000, a decrease of $1,024,000, or $107,000 below the exports in 1893. Hongkong took in 1895 to the value of $8,323,000, a decrease of $1,571,000, and China $3,943,000, an increase of $548,000. The falling off in exports to Hongkong was probably due to quarantine and other restrictions rendered necessary by the prevalence of epidemic diseases.

Japan has sent increased quantities and values, but a distinct decline is seen in supplies of Cotton Piece Goods, owing to the market having been probably overstocked in the previous years with that class of piece goods to which she has hitherto confined her attention. The imports amounted to $2,738,000, an increase of $76,000 over those for 1894, and the exports to $917,000, an increase of $142,000. In 1892, the imports amounted to $858,000 only, and the exports to $171,000.

The imports from the Malay Peninsula, including the Siamese States, reached $42,998,000, an increase of $1,502,000, and the exports $19,330,000, an increase of $551,000.

14. Appendix *H** shews the increase and decrease in the imports and exports of certain important commodities.

Cotton Goods.—The imports of Cotton Piece Goods were abnormally high in 1894, and stocks were still large at the close of 1895. A decrease of about a thousand bales of Plain Yarn is shewn, but this was met by a larger increase in the supplies of Dyed Yarn. Sarongs, &c., Sewing Thread and Handkerchiefs all shew increases, but a decline in Cotton Blankets is recorded, although the imports are above the average of former years. Japanese Cottons have not found a market to such a large extent, owing to stocks being still large.

Coal.—Imports in quantity are in excess of former years, but a decline of 30,000 tons is noted from the United Kingdom. Borneo, Calcutta and Australia sent increased quantities, the former country in particular, while Japan imports were much the same as in 1894.

Rice.—A falling off in the quantity supplied from Bangkok and Saigon was partly met by increased supplies from Rangoon, but there remains a total decreased import by nearly 18,000 tons.

Opium.—Frequent and large fluctuations in price have, no doubt, tended to restrict dealings, and the imports fell from 15,054 chests in 1894 to 12,456 chests in 1895, the exports also declining by 2,594 chests. The class chiefly affected is Patna Opium, the transactions in the Benares description having increased.

* Not printed.

Petroleum.—The total imports shew a falling off by nearly 220,000 cases, this decline being in shipments of American and Sumatra Oil. The decrease of Sumatra imports is due to the introduction of direct shipments for other countries, which were previously landed in Singapore. Russian oil, which comes both in bulk and case, increased by 190,000 cases, while American fell by 91,000 cases, and Sumatra, subject to the above explanation, by 328,000 cases. A small trade has been started in Burma oil, but it is as yet insignificant.

Gambier.—The distinctly marked increase in the exports of Gambier has been largely caused by the better prices obtainable owing to an anticipated small production, which was not realized, and also to the low exchange. The average local price was $8.86 per pikul, compared with $7.84 in 1894.

Gums.—Increased quantities generally were exported, notably in Gum Benjamin, Copal, Cutch and Dammar, and, to lesser extents, in Rubbers, Sticklac, and Vegetable Tallow. The decreases are small and unimportant.

Spices.—The exports shew increases in Nutmegs, Mace, Ginger, Cassia, Cubebs, and Cloves, but in Peppers and Arecanuts as well as in Cardamums and Cinnamon decreases are observable.

Tapioca.—A fairly substantial increase marks the trade in Tapioca, flour and flake, but in the pearl class a small decrease of about 600 tons is chronicled.

Copra.—The trade in this commodity is noted for the serious fluctuations in the quantity dealt in. In 1895 the exports shew a decrease of over 35 per cent. compared with 1894, which with 1891 were exceptional years, so that the 1895 export is still considerably above the average of previous outputs.

Sago.—The increase of over 1,500 tons is confined to Sago Flour, the description known as Pearl Sago averaging much the same quantity exported as previously.

Tin.—Although the output has been more than maintained, yet the high percentage of increase, which it has been customary to find when comparing each year with its predecessor, has been greatly reduced. The increased export is about 2 per cent. only, as against 17 per cent. in 1894 over the 1893 exports. A feature of the 1895 trade is the largely increased imports of the unsmelted tin (ore) by about 46 per cent. over 1894 imports, followed, of course, by a decrease in refined tin. This is due to the Singapore smelters reducing their charges, so that the Chinese smelters in the Native States are less able to compete.

There were reduced exports to the United Kingdom and Continental countries generally, but a very large increase to the United States.

Shipping.

15. The arrivals and departures of shipping during 1894 and 1895 are shewn in Appendix *K**. The total tonnage was 11,065,780, as compared with 10,755,021 in 1894.

The number and tonnage of the new vessels built in the Colony in 1894 and 1895 are as follows :

	No.	Tonnage.
1894 - -	77	5,232
1895 - -	251	7,464

The enterprise of local firms, aided by cheap silver and cheap labour, has successfully initiated the construction in this port of iron ships, one of which was launched in the year under review.

The Revenue (derived principally from Light Dues) of the Marine Department for each Settlement is shewn in Appendix *L*.* The total Revenue for the Colony from this source was $122,583, as compared with $116,583 received in 1894.

Light-houses, &c.

16. The Light-houses, Launches, Buoys, and Beacons throughout the Straits of Malacca were maintained in an efficient condition. The new Light-house on the Sultan Shoal was completed on the 31st December.

Public Health.

17. The general health of the Colony for 1894 has not been satisfactory, the mortality rate having been unusually high—37.66 per mille for the whole Colony. The rate was higher in Singapore (44.08), and Malacca (38.24) and also, though to a less marked degree, in Penang (35.14) ; in Province Wellesley alone (28.81) was the rate lower than that for the previous year. Colonial Surgeons report unusual prevalence of fever, beri-beri, and diseases of bowels and respiratory system as accounting for the higher mortality, which was not caused by prevalence of any epidemic disease.

There was an outbreak of cholera in Singapore in the middle of the year, some 430 cases in all having been reported, with 317 deaths. There were also a few cases in Penang.

Except for this outbreak, the Colony was singularly free from epidemic disease, the number of cases of small-pox that occurred having been comparatively few. The decrease of small-pox in the Northern District of Province Wellesley was very marked.

The Contagious Diseases Acts have been entirely repealed. Of the persons admitted to the Criminal Prison during the year, 527 in every thousand had suffered from venereal disease. In

* Not printed.

the Chinese population, by last Census, there were 143 women to every thousand adult souls in Singapore, the proportion of women immigrating being even less. As already stated under the head of Population, the greater death-rate is amongst males in the prime of manhood, between the ages of 25 and 35.

The number of persons treated in the Government Hospitals during the year was 25,177, as compared with 22,770 in 1894 and 23,499 in 1893.

The number of Lepers treated in the Leper Hospital, Singapore, and the Asylum, Pulau Jerejak, was 596, and there remained 335 at the end of the year. The deaths amounted to 177.

Meteorology.

18. The mean temperature of the air at each of the Settlements during the year and the mean total rainfall together with the maximum and minimum registered in one month will be seen in Appendices *S* and *T*.*

The temperature shews little variation, as compared with 1894, but the rainfall was considerably greater, except in Malacca, where only 76.60 inches fell during the year. In Penang, the total rainfall was 102.38 inches, and in Singapore 98.14. The mean temperature of the Colony was 79.7.

Bankruptcy Ordinance.

19. The Revenue of Singapore was $4,127, as against $7,887 in 1894, while in Penang it was $1,509, as against $1,568 in 1894 The number of failures has decreased both in Singapore and Penang, and the estates administered, for the most part, possessed but small assets. The tendency amongst creditors, naturally, is to wind up privately those estates which are at once substantial and easy to administer, and to throw into the hands of the Bankruptcy Department those cases only in which the assets are small and difficult to recover. For this reason, the number of failures dealt with by the Bankruptcy Department does not furnish an accurate index to the amount of insolvency occurring in the Colony.

Registration of Joint Stock Companies.

20. Seven Joint Stock Companies, with a total nominal capital of $728,000, were registered during the year. The amount of fees collected was $657.20. One of these companies, together

* Not printed.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS. 1895.

with two others previously registered, went into voluntary liquidation, and in the case of another, also registered during 1895, an order was made for winding up under the directions of the Court.

Police and Crime.

21. The only alteration in the authorised strength of the Force during 1895 was the reduction of one Corporal and two Constables from the Penang Police.

Lieut-Colonel E. G. Pennefather, late of the Inniskilling Dragoons, was appointed Inspector-General in place of Mr. R. W. Maxwell, retired on pension. He took up his duties in Singapore on the 25th April.

Mr. C. E. Wegg-Prosser, late Lieutenant, Rifle Brigade, was appointed Assistant Superintendent by His Excellency the Governor on 28th June, and took up his appointment in Penang on that date, being in the Colony.

The conduct of the Inspectors has, on the whole, been good. The conduct of the Sergeants and Constables of the European Contingent has improved, with the exception that several men who had been locally enlisted had to be dismissed, some within a few weeks of their engagement. This contingent is now eight men below the authorised strength ; it is hoped that the men from the Royal Irish Constabulary for whom application has been made will be sent out soon.

There were no serious disturbances during the year. There were ten cases of murder and eight of gang robbery ; the latter crime appears to be steadily decreasing.

There is much extortion and disorderly conduct on the part of brothel bullies, the brothel-keepers having been refused the protection for which they asked.

The gambling suppression has been vigorously carried on, and some important convictions have been obtained, especially in Penang. The sale of lottery tickets in Singapore has been managed from Johore ; the agents in Singapore have a regular contract for indemnification by the principal, in case of suffering fine or imprisonment, and it has been very difficult to establish a case against them.

Judicial.

22. The work of the various Criminal and Civil Courts of the Colony is shewn in Appendices *U* to *Z** :—

In the Supreme Court, there has been a certain increase of work both on the Criminal and Civil side, in all the Settlements.

* Not printed.

There has been a very large increase also in the number of cases tried by the Police Magistrates, the total number brought before the Courts being 45,615, as compared with 37,145 in 1894.

The proportion of acquittals both in the Supreme Court and in the Police Courts was very high.

Inquests.

23. The number of inquests held during the year was 461.

Prisons.

24. The health of the prisoners in the Penang and Malacca Prisons continued satisfactory. In Singapore, the death-rate was nearly double that of the previous year, although the daily average sick and the number of admissions to hospital were nearly the same. The increase in the mortality is attributed to the feeble condition of many of the prisoners remaining from the previous year and also of those admitted during the year, and not to any defect in the Prison itself.

Three suicides and one escape occurred in the Singapore Prison, and one suicide in the Malacca Prison. There were no suicides or escapes in Penang. No serious cases of assault occurred in any of the Prisons.

There were three executions in Penang, but none in Singapore or Malacca.

On the 31st December, 1895, the number in the Criminal Prisons were as follows :—

Singapore - - - -	820
Penang - - - -	293
Malacca - - - -	4

The daily average in the Singapore Prison was 19 less than in 1894, and in Penang 19 higher. In both Singapore and Penang, there was a decrease in the number of long-sentence prisoners received, and an increase in the number of short-sentence and revenue grade prisoners. The increase in the daily average in Penang is principally due to the retention in Penang of prisoners with sentences between six and twelve months, who were formerly sent to Singapore.

In 1894, the staff of Sub-Warders was reduced by 9, and well-behaved prisoners of the Upper Grade were temporarily employed as Sub-Warders. Under instructions, however, from the Secretary of State this practice is being discontinued, and prisoners will not be so employed in future.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS. 1895.

Miscellaneous.

25. Mr. W. E. Maxwell, C.M.G., (now Sir W. E. Maxwell, K.C.M.G.) having been appointed Governor of the Gold Coast, Mr. J. A. Swettenham, C.M.G., was appointed Colonial Secretary, and assumed duties on the 16th April, 1895.

The new British Dollar, the introduction of which, as mentioned in the report for 1894, was sanctioned by the Secretary of State in October of that year, was coined at the Bombay Mint. During the year 1895, the amount of this currency introduced into the Straits Settlements through the medium of the Banks was $2,201,890.

J. A. SWETTENHAM,

Colonial Secretary.

Singapore, 30th July, 1896.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 205.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1896.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 204.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

September 1897.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 1-3, Great St. Thomas Apostle, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, Hanover Street, Edinburgh, and
90, West Nile Street, Glasgow; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., Limited, 104, Grafton Street. Dublin.

1897.

[C.—8650.-3.] *Price* 1*d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
172	Malta	1895
173	Barbados	"
174	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
175	Falkland Islands	"
176	St. Helena	"
177	Bahamas	"
178	Hong Kong	"
179	Windward Islands	"
180	Labuan	"
181	Trinidad and Tobago	"
182	Seychelles	"
183	Mauritius and Rodrigues	1894 and 1895
184	British Honduras	1895
185	Lagos	"
186	Basutoland	1895–96
187	Ceylon	1895
188	British Guiana	1895–96
189	Gold Coast	1895
190	Jamaica	1895–96
191	Canada	1895
192	Bermuda	1896
193	Bahamas	"
194	Zululand	"
195	Gambia	"
196	Malta	"
197	British New Guinea	1895–96
198	Turks and Caicos Islands	1896
199	Barbados	"
200	Leeward Islands	1895
201	Trinidad and Tobago	1896
202	Gibraltar	"
203	Fiji (Trade)	"
204	Straits Settlements	1895

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.

No. 205.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 204 of this Series.)

GOVERNOR SIR C. B. H. MITCHELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Singapore,
5th July, 1897.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward copies of the Report on the Straits Settlements for the year 1896.

I have, &c.,

C. B. H. MITCHELL.

REPORT ON THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1896.

Financial.

1. The Revenue for 1896 amounted to $4,266,064, including Land Sales, the three Settlements contributing as follows :—

Singapore - - - -	$2,500,985
Penang - - - -	1,415,631
Malacca - - - -	349,448

There was an increase of $217,704 as compared with the Revenue for 1895, and $361,290 as compared with the Revenue for 1894.

The principal increases were under the heads of Interest ($75,430), Stamps ($55,341), Port and Harbour Dues ($23,646), Land Sales ($22,657), and Land Revenue ($10,250). The increase

14501*—75—8/97 Wt 20613 D & S—5 (B)

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS. 1896.

in Interest is mainly due to a payment of part of the arrears of interest due by Pahang received from Selangor.

The increase under the head of Stamps is chiefly due to Probate Duty paid on a very large estate; under the head of Port and Harbour Dues, to increase in the Shipping business; and under the other two heads to more activity in the Land market.

On the other hand, there was a decrease of $3,605 in the Fees for Pawnbrokers' Licences, the increased rates having caused several shops to close.

The Expenditure for the year was $3,957,262, which shews an increase of $174,806 over 1895, and $242,642 as compared with the Expenditure for 1894. There was an increase of $122,465 in Military Expenditure, due to the expenditure on the new Barracks, which in 1895 was $74,561, and in 1896 $188,427. There was also an increase under the head of Pensions of $88,711, which is mainly due to difference of rate for payment of Pensions in England, which was in previous years charged to Interest. On the other hand, Interest shewed a decrease of $86,716.

2. Appendix *A** shews the Assets and Liabilities of the Colony as they stood at the beginning of 1896 and 1897, respectively. The nett balance to the credit of the Colony on the 31st December, 1896, was $2,328,270, as compared with $2,063,459 on the same date in 1895. The Colony has no debt.

The Colony's financial position cannot be considered as otherwise than good, and it is now found possible to take in hand some of the most needed public works.

Exchange.

3. There was a slight improvement in the sterling value of the local dollar, the average value of which was 2/2$\frac{1}{16}$, and for bills at 4 months' sight 2/2$\frac{3}{16}$, as compared with 2/1$\frac{1}{4}$ and 2/1$\frac{1}{2}$, respectively, in 1895. The monthly variation in the value of the dollar is shown in Appendix *B*.*

The estimated Bank Note circulation of the Colony on 31st December was $6,734,049. The introduction of a Government Note Issue has been unavoidably delayed.

Municipalities.

The Revenue of the three Municipalities amounted to $1,215,469, and their Expenditure to $1,188,580. Under powers

* Not printed.

conferred by the Municipal Ordinance, a sum of $92,445 was levied in the districts outside the Municipalities. The Expenditure on Roads and Bridges in these districts amounted to $164,445.

Legislation.

4. Thirty-two meetings of the Legislative Council were held during the year, 21 Ordinances being passed.

Ordinances were passed consolidating the law with regard to the carriage and storage of Petroleum, &c., the law relating to Municipalities, and with regard to the protection of Women and Girls, and for the suppression of Brothels ; and various important amendments were embodied in them.

Other important Ordinances were passed prohibiting persons banished from Johore or the Native States from residing in the Colony, for the suppression of the practice of injecting morphia by unqualified persons, for the registration and control of Native Passenger Lodging-houses, and for the regulation of burial and burning grounds outside the several Municipalities.

The Municipal Ordinance contains certain provisions for the control of burial and burning grounds within Municipal limits, and although these provisions might, under section 325, have been applied to country districts, it was considered advisable to have different regulations for country burial grounds.

Registration of Deeds.

5. The land market, as evidenced by the number of deeds registered, shows increased activity, the fees received in Singapore being $7,537, and in Penang, $8,702. Some delay is caused in the latter Settlement in the final registration of deeds owing to the inability of the Survey Department to keep pace with the demands for survey of sub-divisions, the number of which proved greater than was anticipated.

Public Works.

6. Barracks for the Royal Engineers (Officers and Men) at Pulau Brani which were begun in 1895 were finished in June, 1896, at a total cost of $64,000.

On Blakang Mati Island, barracks for Royal Artillery (married and single men), Officers' mess, and detached quarters for Medical and Field Officers were finished in December, 1896, while the construction of the Hospital was well advanced.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS. 1896.

Two blocks providing 20 married quarters and an Infant School at Tanglin were brought near completion at the end of the year.

The only other works of importance were the completion of the Telok Ayer Reclamation, which was begun in June and finished in December, an extension to the Treasury containing space for about four million dollars in anticipation of the introduction of the Government Note Issue, and a further extension to the Beach Road Reclamation which formed a place to deposit dredgings from the Singapore River, and at the same time added about 90,000 square feet of area suitable for building sites.

The erection of the remaining portion of the sea-wall at Telok Ayer Reclamation brought to completion this very successful reclamation scheme. The total area reclaimed was 1,808,028 square feet, of which, 88,000 square feet have been reserved for public purposes. The total cost of the reclamation has been $917,244, and the amount already recovered is $739,482, the annual rents reserved on the grants issued amounting to $1,600. The average price obtained for the land sold in 1896 was $2.77 per square foot. The area still available for sale is 1,067,000 square feet.

The only other work of any importance was the continuation of Weld Quay Reclamation at Penang.

Postal Department.

7. During the year under review, 5,928,730 articles passed through the Post Office of the Colony, as compared with 5,756,940 in 1895. The Registration, Insurance and Parcel Post branches, as well as the Chinese Sub-Post Office, all show steady progress. The Postal Revenue amounted to $208,408, which is an excess of $7,461 over the income of the Department for the preceding year. The expenditure charged to 1896 was $183,440.43, being a decrease of $20,665, as compared with the expenditure of the year before. There is a small decrease on "British Postage," due to reduction of the special charges for Continental transit, and a large decrease on Foreign Postage, which is more apparent than real, as a large sum of arrears was paid in 1895, and in all probability a considerable sum will have to be paid for 1896 during this year, owing to adjustments consequent on the new statistics taken in 1896.

In consequence of less favourable rates of exchange having prevailed for remittances to India and Ceylon, there was a large

decrease in the Money Order business done with those countries. The transactions in sterling amounted to £10,920, in Indian currency to nearly Rs. 930,000, and in local currency to $208,705; the total business done aggregated $822,135, against a total of $811,159 in 1895.

Savings Bank.

8. Notwithstanding the reduction in the rate of interest from 3½ to 3 per cent., there was a large increase in Savings Bank transactions, as compared with the preceding year, and the amount standing to the credit of depositors at the close of the year was $326,877, an increase of $78,409, as compared with 1895. The deposits amounted to $227,980, and withdrawals to $157,399.

The investments in Indian 3½ per cent. rupee paper amounted to $257,857.

Education.

9. Two hundred and one schools were inspected in 1896, and 7,969 pupils were presented for examination. The results generally as shewn by the percentages of marks gained shew a considerable falling off, but this is attributed to a higher standard being required by the examiners, especially in English subjects, and not to a falling off in efficiency.

The existing system under which grants in aid depend on individual passes of pupils is thought to be defective, and it is hoped that a new Education Code, modelled on the English Code, may be introduced at an early date.

The total expenditure of the Education Department amounted to $178,004.

Population.

10. The population of the Colony, which was 512,342 by the Census of 1891, is now estimated to be 549,000. During the year 1896, there were registered 12,620 births, of which 6,627 were of male, and 5,993 of female children. The number of deaths registered was 24,014, as compared with 20,397 in 1895.

Chinese and Indian Immigration.

11. The number of Chinese immigrants was about normal, but there was a decrease in the number of contracts signed in the Chinese Protectorate, there being a smaller number

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS. 1896.

of contracts signed by unpaid passengers from lodging-houses.

It is satisfactory to record a substantial increase in the number of both free and statute immigrants from India. The present scarcity in India should do much towards stimulating emigration to countries such as this Colony and the Malay States, where there is a constant demand for labour.

Trade.

12. The trade of the year has not been as satisfactory as was anticipated in the first few months.

There was a large decline in the value of the principal articles of export—Tin, Gambier, and Pepper—caused by falling prices in the case of the first two products and by a decrease in the output of Pepper.

What may be taken as the feature of the year's trade has been the practical close to a period of successive advances in the export of Tin, owing to an end of the system of surface mining.

The market for Manchester goods has been depressed and unremunerative.

Notwithstanding these drawbacks, the trade of the Colony with outside countries has increased, chiefly on account of the heavy rise in the value of certain staple foodstuffs and an increase in the export of most important products except Pepper.

13. The value of the imports and exports of the three Settlements for 1895 and 1896 is seen in Appendix *F*.*

Merchandise imported from all places outside the Colony amounted to 176½ million dollars, an increase of 2¼ millions, and exports to over 151½ million dollars, an increase of nearly 2 millions.

From all places, including Inter-Settlement movements, an increase of $845,000 is seen in the silver value and of £687,000 in the gold value of goods.

To all places, including Inter-Settlement movements, the silver increase of merchandise sent is $960,000 and the gold increase £638,000.

* Not printed.

The sterling increase is largely owing to an average rise of over 3 per cent. in the gold value of the dollar, compared with 1895.

Imports show increased values under Foodstuffs, Manufactured Metals generally and Miscellaneous Manufactured Goods, but show a fall of over 2 million dollars in Textiles, and declines in Coal and Oil.

Exports shew increased values in Foodstuffs, Metals, Manufactured Gutta, Copra, Rattans, Hides, Timber, many products and Miscellaneous Manufactured Goods, but declines in Spices, Textiles, Tin, and Gambier.

Imports from the United Kingdom fell by $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. or $1\frac{1}{4}$ million dollars, chiefly in Cotton Goods, Coal, Iron Bar and Telegraph Materials.

Exports to the United Kingdom declined by 13 per cent. or 4 million dollars chiefly seen in Tin, Gambier, Gutta, Nutmegs, and Copra.

British India and Burma had an increase in imports received by the Colony of over $1\frac{1}{3}$ million dollars owing to enhanced values of Rice, Opium, Raw Cotton and Hides, but exports thither declined by nearly half a million dollars on account of a falling off in Sticklac, Pepper, Sugar, Silk, Teel Seeds, and Umbrellas.

The Hongkong and China trade increased by 5 per cent. in imports and by nearly 20 per cent. in exports. There were increased imports of Wheat Flour, Beans and Peas, Hides, Vegetables, Tea, Paper, and Matches, and increased exports of Rice, the enhanced value of which alone was $1\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars, Padi, Tin and Timber.

Japan imports slightly increased, but the exports fell by 41 per cent. or $375,000. Coal received increased in value, but Cotton Goods and Umbrellas fell off. Rice, Hides and numerous goods of little importance shew declines in the values sent.

Netherlands India is the source of the great bulk of the produce exported. Imports shew an increase of over half a million dollars and exports an increase of over a million.

Large increases are apparent in the value received of Copra and Rattans and by smaller amounts in Gambier, Gutta, Pepper and Beche-de-Mer, but there were serious declines in Sugar, Petroleum, Kachang Oil, Coffee and Nutmegs.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS. 1896.

The greater value of the Rice sent accounts for the increased export, besides which, Cattle, Matches, Wheat Flour, and Beans and Peas shew fair increases, but there was a heavy falling off in Fish.

From the Malay Peninsula, including the Western Siamese States, a decrease of $1\frac{1}{3}$ million dollars is recorded, but in exports there is an increase of over half a million dollars.

Tin Ore, Rice, Fish and Rattans shew increased import values, but decreases are found in Tin, Gambier, Pepper, and Arecanuts.

Larger export values are recorded under Rice, Timber, Wheat Flour and various articles of minor importance, and decreases under Apparel, Cottons, Swine, and Opium.

The Continent of Europe sent larger values in the cases of Germany, Belgium and Italy, and less values from Austria, France, Holland, and Russia.

Exports to Holland declined, but rose in the case of every other country. Bangkok import values increased by over half a million dollars, but exports shew a trifling decline.

An insignificant advance is observable in trade with Saigon.

14. Appendix *H** affords a view of the fluctuations in the more important commodities.

Cotton Goods.—The imports of Cotton Piece Goods fell by over half a million pieces. Grey and Bleached Yarn shewed a little difference between the two years in the quantity imported, but in Dyed Yarn there was a decline of over 4,000 bales. Of this Yarn, large stocks were in hand during the year. Sewing Thread shews decrease in the import value of nearly $90,000, and Cotton Handkerchiefs, Sarongs, Slendangs and Kains, as well as Blankets, all shew decreases.

Coal.—There were received over 25,000 tons less than in 1895. From the United Kingdom supplies fell by 57,000 tons, while from Japan they rose by over 45,000 tons and from Borneo by over 4,000 tons. Australian imports fell by 10,000 tons, and Bengal coal by 1,000 tons. A silver currency favours the Japan and Borneo descriptions.

Rice.—Imports rose to nearly 429,000 tons, an increase of 28,500 tons, and, combined with a heavy rise in price, enormously increased the value of this foodstuff. Supplies from Rangoon

* Not printed.

increased, and, to a smaller extent, from Saigon, but a slight falling off occurred in the imports from Siam.

Opium.—An increase of nearly 1,100 chests was received on a total import in 1895 of 12,455 chests.

Opium from China, declared by importers as China Opium and Persian Opium, has been coming down in larger quantities, 250 chests being received in 1896, compared with 80 chests in the previous year. Patna Opium, which formerly was imported on as large a scale as the Benares description, is gradually dwindling to a mere fraction of its former proportion.

Tapioca.—The total export of all three kinds of Tapioca reached 45,358 tons, an increase of 3,500 tons. The increase was especially marked in Tapioca Flour.

Copra.—The production is larger than in 1895 by 9,300 tons, but with a total export of 45,950 tons is still less than the outputs in 1891 and 1894.

Sago.—Exports rose from 46,300 tons in 1895 to 51,500 tons in 1896. The increase was in both Sago Flour and Pearl Sago.

Rattans.—The year's export is the highest on record, exceeding by 4,000 tons the figures for 1895.

Tin.—A climax has been reached in the tin mining industry, and it is doubtful whether, for some years at least, such large supplies will be recorded. Yet the Peninsula is known to abound in mineral wealth, and it is difficult to say what would be the effect of a stimulant in the shape of high prices and increased demands.

A small increase is seen in the quantity sent to all places, the total production for the year touching 53,114 tons, an advance of about 400 tons.

There was a large falling off in exports to the United Kingdom, but an increase in the quantity sent to the United States of America.

Shipping.

15. The total tonnage of the vessels arriving and departing was 12,244,383, as compared with 11,065,780 in 1895. The light dues amounted to $110,623.

Two hundred and seventy-four (274) new vessels of 10,822 tons were built in the Colony during the year, including three steel screw steamers of 1,389 tons gross, which were built to the order of Netherland subjects.

Light-houses.

16. The new Light-house on the Sultan Shoal, which was first lit on the 1st January, 1896, has given satisfaction, while all the Light-houses, Launches, Buoys and Beacons have been maintained in an efficient condition.

Public Health.

17. The state of health throughout the Colony continues to be very unsatisfactory, and the very high death-rate of 43.78 per mille was reached. The rate was higher in all the Settlements, the difference being most marked in Singapore and Province Wellesley and, to a somewhat less degree, in Penang and the Dindings, and to a still less degree in Malacca. Fever and beri-beri continue to be prevalent.

There was again an outbreak of cholera in Singapore in the middle of the year, 592 cases being reported and 511 deaths. Many cases were discovered only after death. A few cases also occurred in Penang and Province Wellesley.

There was a large increase in the number of persons treated in the Government Hospitals, the admissions being 29,647, as compared with 25,177 in 1895.

The question of death registration has occupied the attention of the Government during the year, the returns of the causes of deaths being very untrustworthy. Assistant Registrars were appointed to ascertain by inspection and personal enquiry the causes of deaths reported to the Police in Singapore. The experiment, the cost of which is being shared by the Government and the Municipality, has been tried hardly long enough to enable one to speak as to its success, but sufficient cause has been shewn for amending the existing law as to death registration, and a Bill dealing with this important subject is now before the Legislative Council.

Meteorology.

18. A rainfall of 136.27 inches was recorded in Penang, the greatest fall in one day being 6.82 inches and in one month

(October) 26.49 inches. In Singapore and Malacca, the rainfall was considerably less than usual. The mean temperature of the Colony was of 80.1.

Bankruptcy.

19. There was a considerable increase in the number of Bankruptcies in Singapore, but the fees recovered do not pay the cost of the establishment. The question of raising the fees has been discussed, but it has been decided to wait until the Amending Ordinance passed in 1896 has been in force for some time in order that its results may be seen. The cost of the establishment in Penang has been reduced by the abolition of the appointment of Assistant in the Bankruptcy Department, the late holder having retired during the year.

Registration of Joint Stock Companies.

20. Five Joint Stock Companies, with a nominal capital of $609,000, were registered during the year. Three Companies went into liquidation, and an order was made for winding up another under the direction of the Court.

Police and Crime.

21. No change of any importance has taken place in the strength or constitution of the Police Force of the Colony. The general conduct of the Force has been satisfactory. The European Contingent is not up to its full strength. The service is not popular, and two Constables, one of them being a recruit from the Royal Irish Constabulary, deserted during the year.

No serious disturbances occurred during the year throughout the Colony.

There were 17 murders and 9 cases of gang robbery, and the latter crime appears to be on the increase in Singapore.

In Singapore, gambling appears to have been checked to some extent, though in Penang the efforts of the Police have not been very successful. In the former Settlement, for a time, certain cliques of Chinese women, mostly the wives of respectable shopkeepers, carried on a regular system of gambling, their husbands professing to be unable to put a stop to it. After careful watching on the part of the Police, a few convictions were obtained and there have been no further complaints.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS 1896.

The great Waiseng Lotteries have been suppressed for the time being.

Judicial.

22. In the Courts of Summary Jurisdiction, there was a large increase of work, and it is noteworthy that, while the number of acquittals increased by only 81, the number of convictions increased by 3,544. The proportion of acquittals is still very high and is, doubtless, accounted for by the system of private prosecutions for indictable offences which prevails in the Colony. There was also a considerable increase in the work of the Courts of Requests in all three Settlements.

There was a decrease in the Criminal work of the Supreme Court, and a large decrease in the number of Civil actions commenced during the year. The number of Civil actions disposed of was 1,348, and 971 cases were pending at the close of the year, as compared with 893 at the close of 1895. A fourth Judge has now been appointed, the existing Bench having proved insufficient to cope with the work.

Inquests.

23. Four hundred and ninety-eight (498) inquests were held during the year, and in 345 cases death was due to natural causes, accidental, &c. There were 71 suicides.

Prisons.

24. The increase in the number of convictions mentioned in paragraph 22 above, which was principally in the Settlement of Singapore, resulted naturally in an increase in the number of prisoners in the Gaols, the average daily number in the Singapore Prison being 905, as compared with 842 in 1895. The increase was principally in the Revenue Grade, composed of prisoners committed for non-payment of fines. Although the daily average of sick was greater than in 1895, there was a marked decrease in the death-rate in the Singapore Prison, which was 4.37 of the total treated, as against 7.05 per cent. in the previous year. In Penang, the increase was considerable, both in general sickness and the death-rate.

There was one execution in Penang, but none in Singapore or Malacca.

A serious assault occurred in Penang Prison, a sub-warder being struck by a prisoner on the head with a stone-breaking

hammer. The warder succumbed to the injury on the following day.

There were three suicides in the Singapore Prison, but none in Penang or Malacca, and there were no escapes in any of the Settlements.

C. W. S. KYNNERSLEY,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Singapore, 18th June, 1897.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 216.

COCOS-KEELING

AND

CHRISTMAS ISLANDS.

REPORT ON THE ANNUAL VISIT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* [C. 8367] March, 1897.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

November, 1897.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C., or
JOHN MENZIES & CO., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & CO., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1897.

[C.—8650-14.] *Price* 1½*d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
186	Basutoland	1895–96
187	Ceylon	1895
188	British Guiana	1895–96
189	Gold Coast	1895
190	Jamaica	1895–96
191	Canada	1895
192	Bermuda	1896
193	Bahamas...	,,
194	Zululand	,,
195	Gambia	,,
196	Malta	,,
197	British New Guinea	1895–96
198	Turks and Caicos Islands	1896
199	Barbados	,,
200	Leeward Islands	1895
201	Trinidad and Tobago	1896
202	Gibraltar...	,,
203	Fiji (Trade)	,,
204	Straits Settlements	1895
205	Do. do.	1896
206	Falkland Islands	,,
207	British Honduras	,,
208	Sierra Leone	,,
209	Grenada	,,
210	Hong Kong	,,
211	St. Lucia	,,
212	St. Vincent	,,
213	St. Helena	,,
214	Seychelles	,,
215	Mauritius	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.

No. 216.

COCOS-KEELING AND CHRISTMAS ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1896, *see* [C. 8367] March, 1897.)

Acting Governor Kynnersley to Mr. Chamberlain.

Government House,

Singapore,

7th September, 1897.

[Extract.]

I have the honour to forward herewith six copies of a Report by Mr. Justice Leach on the Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands.

Mr. Leach was deputed to pay the annual visit to those Islands, and his Report is an interesting one.

If Mr. Ross's expectations as to the existence of phosphate in large quantities on Christmas Island are borne out, the discovery would prove a most valuable one.

The health of the people, both on Christmas Island and the Cocos-Keeling, appears to be good and no deaths from beri-beri are reported. The rate of mortality among children continues high, but this is equally noticeable among the Malay population of the Straits Settlements.

The Ross family apparently exercise great influence over their people, and there can be no question that this influence is for their good. No complaints whatever were made; crime is reported to be unknown, and the people, both Natives and Bantamese, are said to be happy and contented.

14902*—75—10/97 Wt 20613 D & S—5 (B)

COCOS-KEELING AND CHRISTMAS ISLANDS. 1897.

Mr. Leach mentions in his Report on the Cocos-Keeling Islands the fact (paragraph 12) that six Bantamese asked to be sent back to Batavia, but they made no complaint of detention, and will no doubt be allowed to leave when opportunity offers.

The number of children being educated appears small, but Mr. Leach does not advocate compulsion, and would rather trust to the influence of Mr. Ross to induce parents to make their children attend. The Malay books asked for by the teacher will be forwarded.

The Report gives a pleasing picture of the social life of the inhabitants of these distant Islands, cut off as they are for half the year from the outside world, and Mr. Leach is, I think, justified in his commendation of the Ross administration.

Report by His Honour Mr. Justice LEACH, deputed by His Excellency the Governor of the Straits Settlements to visit the Christmas and Keeling-Cocos Islands.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND.

1. Punctually at 8 a.m. on the 15th July, H.M.S. "Iphigenia" (Capt. Dudding, R.N.) steamed away from Singapore Roads, and, successively passing through the beautiful Straits of Rhio and Banka and the grander Straits of Sunda, arrived off Java Head about 2.30 p.m. on the 17th July : the ship's course was then set S. 12° E. for Christmas Island, which we reached the next morning at 9 a.m. after a run from Singapore of 720 nautical miles. As we approached Flying Fish Cove, a small schooner, which proved to be the "Tweed," 97 tons register, was sighted lying at anchor close inshore. The cove takes its name from H.M.S. "Flying Fish," which visited the Island in 1886.

2. Shortly after our arrival, Mr. George Clunies Ross and his brother Mr. Andrew Clunies Ross came off in a boat to greet us, and, accompanied by the Doctor and one or two Officers and the Interpreter, we went ashore, where we were made heartily welcome.

3. Mr. George Clunies Ross, his wife, his daughter Miss Gertrude Clunies Ross, and Mrs. Baynton, a widow sister, had

arrived there in the "Tweed" from the Cocos Islands on the 4th July, and the yawl the "Clunies Ross," 68 tons, which had left the Cocos at the same time, had arrived on the 8th July, but had sailed again before our arrival for Batavia to bring over Mr. Andrews of the British Museum and Mr. Wilkinson an Engineer. On reaching Batavia, on our return voyage, we found that these gentlemen had left on the 23rd July.

4. During Mr. George Ross's recent visit to England, the differences which had hitherto existed between himself and Dr. Murray, his co-lessee of the Island, were brought to a settlement, and a Company has been formed and registered in London under the name of "The Christmas Island Phosphate Company, Limited."

5. The Company is formed chiefly for the purpose of working and exporting phosphate, but as the papers relative to the Company had not arrived from England, I could not ascertain more details of its object; Mr. Ross, however, informed me that the Company was divided into 1,500 shares, of which he held 750 shares and Dr. Murray and his friends the other half. The shares have not been offered to the public.

6. The object of Mr. Andrews's visit is of general interest. It is to ascertain the structure and formation of the Island. It is supposed to be a raised coral atoll. The Island is an irregular quadrilateral and is 9 miles in length on the North, East and South sides, and 4 miles on the West. In appearance it is somewhat saddle-shaped, sloping from a long back in the middle to hills on the North-East and West. At the West end, it has a double summit rising to 1,580 feet, and to the North-East the hill rises to over 1,000 feet.* At the outer base of the Island, at Flying Fish Cove, detrited coral is abundant all round the shore; and some hundred yards inland, I saw what appeared to me to be a solid coral cliff rising 100 feet or more. Mr. Ross's theory is that the Island was originally a coral atoll like the Keeling Cocos with a lagoon in the centre, but the centre of which has, under the influence of volcanic action, been upheaved to its present elevation, causing the lagoon entirely to disappear. If the right solution of this question is arrived at, it is thought that it will finally settle the much controverted Darwin subsidence theory of 1836. It is quite possible, having regard to the nature and the formation of the Keeling Cocos atoll, that at one time Christmas Island may have been of the same character, and assuming a similar upheaval to have taken place in the Cocos atoll, as is supposed to have occurred in Christmas Island, it would now probably be approximately of a similar though smaller area to

* *See* the Sailing Directions and the report of Captain (now Admiral) Maclear of H.M.S. "Flying Fish" in the Proceedings of the Zoological Society for 1887.

that Island. The lagoon at the Cocos is about 8 miles from N. to S., 6 from E. to W. The circumference of the Cocos is about 25 miles, and that of Christmas Island over 30 miles.

7. The object of Mr. Wilkinson's visit is also of great interest, but more particularly to those interested in the Island. It is to ascertain, on behalf of the Company (or Dr. Murray, or both), the quantity and quality of the phosphate on the Island. The site of the phosphate at present discovered is some way inland behind Flying Fish Cove and is known as Phosphate Hill on the North-East. The hill is 1,024 feet above sea level. Mr. Ross estimates that it holds 1,000,000 tons of stones containing from 60 per cent. to 97 per cent. of phosphate. Phosphate, I understand, is used chiefly for manuring tobacco plantations.

The Island is practically unexplored, and the source of the waterfall on the South side, mentioned in former reports, has not yet been discovered, although three attempts have been made. So that it is quite within the range of possibilities that the supply of phosphate may be unlimited.

Mr. Ross is of opinion that the phosphate was originally guano which, having been dropped on to the coral and into its interstices, has, in the course of ages, by some chemical action, become almost pure phosphate ; the volcanic upheavals would account for the altitude at which it is formed.

8. Mr. Ross's visit to the Island is primarily to supervise Mr. Wilkinson's operations and to give him the benefit of his help, knowledge, and experience, but Mr. Andrews has, doubtless, received that welcome and assistance which Mr. Ross always accords to every visitor.

9. In anticipation of Mr. Wilkinson's visit, a clearing has been commenced from the shore on the East side of the cove up the incline towards Phosphate Hill. About 100 yards from the shore, quite close to the coral cliff I have alluded to, the ascent is very steep, and it is intended to use this part of the hill as a shoot to send the phosphate stones to the level of the shore.

Of the prospects of the Company, I am unable to speak.

Mr. Ross has petitioned the Dutch Government in Batavia for 36 Bantamese coolies.

It appears essential to the successful opening up of the resources of the Island, that Mr. Ross should have at his disposal a greater number of coolies.

10. Exclusive of those who are visiting the Island for a special purpose, the ordinary population of the Island has undergone little change since last year. Two Cocos-born men have returned to their birth-place, and two Cocos-born "boys," as they are called before marriage, have married two Cocos-born girls, who, I understand, came over from the Keeling Cocos.

Of the Ross family, Mrs. Lindsay with a daughter and two children have returned to the Cocos Islands.

There has been no death or birth during the year under report.

The general health of the population has been excellent. The death reported in paragraph 28 of Mr. Keyser's report, refers to the death of a "boy" who was sent over from the Cocos suffering from diabetes and abscess of the liver. After improving in his health, he died suddenly.

Dr. Croply, who accompanied me on shore, prescribed for an affection of a boy's eye.

11. During the afternoon, accompanied by the Interpreter, I visited the native dwellings on the west side of the cove; they appeared to be kept neat and clean. I noticed that most, if not all, of the dwellings had a cement flooring raised about 1 foot from the ground.

12. The natives quickly gathered round me, and one and all declared that they were happy and content and that they had no complaint to make.

13. Crime is unknown on the Island.

14. In the afternoon, I also walked through the coffee plantation some 300 feet up the hill, at the steep part which it is intended to use as a shoot. Everything seemed to be growing luxuriantly, and notwithstanding a 6 or 7 months' drought last year, the coffee appeared to be doing well. I noticed some orchids on the trees and especially one with a small white flower, but the specimen I obtained was lost.

The place was alive with frigate birds, boobies, gannets, etc., and large fruit-eating bats not unlike the flying fox when on the wing (*Pteropus Natalis ?*). I noticed a number of small swallow or martin which Mr. George Ross believes is of the kind which builds the nest from which bird's nest soup is made, but as yet their cave-homes have not been discovered.

Higher up the hill some of the ship's "sports" easily obtained some 25 couple of a metallic-blue pigeon weighing from 1 lb. to 1½ lbs. They proved excellent eating. The pigeon is a new species named *Carpophaga Whartoni*. It is allied to the *C. Janthina* of Japan. A smaller pigeon was also observed with green wings and chocolate-coloured body.

The soil of the Island is a rich brown in colour, and even high up the hill, Mr. George Ross told me, it is in places 20 or 30 feet deep. If the phosphate enterprise

does not succeed, there is always export coffee planting to fall back on. The chief difficulty in the way of both enterprises appears to be the acquisition of labourers and the cost of export.

The timber felling, alluded to in paragraph 9 of Mr. Keyser's report, has not been proceeded with.

In the course of our walk uphill, a small brilliant red crab was frequently to be seen running in and out of holes, or from under stones : on my noticing it, Mr. George Ross, confirmed by Mr. Andrew Ross, told me that once a year, in the month of December or January, they (male and female) travel down to the sea margin. There the female deposits her eggs and the parents again return.

They take 15 days going and 15 days returning, and travel in bodies like ants. After the eggs are hatched, the young, when big enough, in turn move uphill. I have heard that in Jamaica there is a similar migration of crabs.

15. Mr. Keyser, in paragraph 18 of his report, mentions the peculiar habits of the white tern and frigate bird. The two birds are of an entirely different class. The white tern or noddy is unknown in Christmas Island, and it lays but one egg at a time, so that the story of its laying its eggs head and tailwise alternately is mistaken.

It inhabits the Keeling Cocos and especially Horsburgh Island, indeed it has been called the Cocos pilot from the fact that it is not seen more than 40 miles away, and when seen the Islands are known to be near. When I come to that part of my report which deals with these Islands, I shall venture further scepticism as to its habits.

As to the frigate bird, I could learn of no such story as that told by Mr. Keyser. It builds itself a regular nest. I saw the young in them, but the frigate as well as other birds, I understand, do change the fish food of their young, according as the weather outside on their fishing ground is propitious or not.

16. In paragraph 23, Mr. Keyser says there are scarcely any butterflies. Mr. Ross assured me this was a mistake ; at certain times of the year there is a considerable variety of butterflies, moths, and other insects.

17. The exports of the Island at present are nil, except of hard wood to the Cocos for ship and other building purposes.

The imports are stores, &c.

18. The rat nuisance continues ; there are three kinds of rat :—

(1) A large brown and black harmless species something like a beaver in appearance which burrows under the earth and lives in colonies.

(2) A big rat (the devastator) with reddish brown hair deepening into black with half white tail, which retires by day under stones and rocks and comes out at night to devour every thing it can get hold of. As their number has increased and the difficulty of obtaining food increased also, they have adapted themselves to circumstances by climbing the fruit trees for food.

An attempt to grow Indian Corn was frustrated by this pest.

Their only known enemies are the dogs, which alone render the dwellings habitable.

It is not ascertained as yet whether this species is peculiar to the Island or not. It is an entirely different kind to the Cocos rat, which was brought to those Islands by a ship. The Christmas rat is named, after Admiral Maclear, *Mus Macleari.*

The big land crab (*Birgus latro*), which has been described before, does not even escape them. They are attacked by the rats for the sake of the oil-sac which is carried under the tail. The full grown crab with its powerful claws is more than a match for the rat, but the younger crab gets the worst of the encounter.

Darwin doubted whether the crab climbed trees. It is now a well ascertained fact, but for what purpose still remains an open question. Mr. Forbes, in his book on the Malay Archipelago, negatives the assertion that they climb the palms for the nuts.

(3) The other species is small and harmless, with a long snout.

There are now only 1 goat and 2 pigs on the Island, but tame duck and fowl flourish.

19. Before our arrival, there has been no visit from any ship during the year under report, except from the "Tweed" and "Clunies Ross."

20. Since the visit of H.M.S. "Æolus," Mr. Andrew Ross has taken a daily record of the temperature, with remarks on the direction of the wind and of the state of the weather. This he

kindly placed at my disposal. The table below shows the maximum and minimum temperature and the general direction of the wind for each month since June, 1896 :—

THERMOMETER READINGS.

Month and Year.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Direction of Wind.
1896.			
*June ...	81·07	74·	E.S.E., Fair.
*July ...	80·07	72·08	S.E. to E.S.E.
*August ...	83·	72·05	E.S.E.
*September	84·	73·	E.S.E.
*October ...	85·	74·	E.S.E.
*November...	85·	75·	E.S.E.
*December...	86·	73·	S.E. to S.S.E.
1897.			
January ...	88·	75·	N.N.W., Strong. (First rain after drought.)
February ...	89·	76·	S.S.W., Variable.
March ...	82·	76·	S.W., Light showery with heavy seas.
April ...	86·	77·	E.N.E. to E.S.E., Rain and heavy seas.
May ...	84·	78·	E.S.E., Showery.
June ...	85·	75·	E.S.E. (Steady), Cloudy but no rain.
July ...	84·	78·	E.S.E., Strong with rain showers.

During the months marked with an asterisk* the wind was steady to fresh, but there was no appreciable rain. It is the longest drought remembered. The first rain fell in January last. No barometer readings are taken.

The great drawback to the Island is that the only landing place is at Flying Fish Cove, and that for six months in the year there is not only no anchorage, but landing is impossible.

21. At Mr. Ridley's request, I obtained specimens of—

(i) The so-called bastard teak wood locally called "Boongoor."

(ii) The scented wood locally called "Kayu Wangi."

I also obtained a small piece of a wood (iii) called the stinking wood "Kayu Boosok."

All these woods are avoided by the white ant.

I could obtain no flowers of these trees, but I obtained the leaves and seeds of the teak, and dried leaves of the stinking wood.

I also obtained two samples of the stone said to contain over 90 per cent. of phosphate, and a few shells for the Museum of the cowrey or cyprœa kind.

22. In conclusion, I cannot but regret that my visit was so limited in time, more especially as Mr. George Ross had to remain behind. There was much more I should have liked to have made enquiries about. The future of Christmas Island will be watched with great interest.

Every assistance, attention, and kindness was shown to us.

We steamed away as darkness set in, and after clearing the Island our course was set S. by W. for the Cocos, 520 miles away (nautical).

ANDREW J. LEACH.

Singapore, 9th August, 1897.

Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands. 1897.

KEELING COCOS OR COCOS KEELING ISLANDS.

1. After a somewhat uncomfortable passage with rollers on the port quarter, we sighted the Islands about 6.30 a.m. on the 21st July, and entered the coral circle close on 9 a.m., passing between Direction Island on our port, and Horsburgh Island on our starboard, and anchored in 5 fathoms about 2½ miles from New Selma (not Selima) or Settlement Island, and about half a mile from the entrance ; the anchorage is good in the absence of rollers from the N.E. or E., which Mr. George Ross had assured Captain Dudding were not probable at this season of the year.

2. As we left the ocean depths of deepest blue and entered the coral circle, the contrast was most remarkable, the brilliant colours of the waters, transparent to a depth of over 30 feet, now purple, now of the bluest sky blue, and now green, with the white crests of the waves flashing under a brilliant sun, the encircling twenty-three palm-clad islands, the gaps between which were to the South undiscernible, the white sand shores and the whiter gaps where breakers appeared, and lastly the lagoon itself 7 to 8 miles across from North to South and 5 to 6 from East to West, presented a sight never to be forgotten.

3. After some little delay, Mr. Sidney Ross, the eldest son of Mr. George Ross, came off to meet us, and soon after, accompanied by the Doctor and another Officer, we went ashore.

On reaching the landing stage, we found, hauled up for cleaning, &c., the "Spray," of Boston, a yawl of 12·70 tons gross, the property of Captain Joshua Slocum.

He arrived at the Island on the 17th July, 23 days out from Thursday Island. This extraordinary solitary traveller left Boston some two years ago single handed, crossed to Gibraltar, sailed down to Cape Horn, passed through the Straits of Magellan to the Society Islands, thence to Australia, and through the Torres Straits to Thursday Island. He was a most interesting and amusing raconteur.

4. The next sight that struck us was the ship and boat-building sheds, where work goes on busily from year's end to year's end.

Here we saw the life-boat or whaler mentioned by Mr. Keyser. It is complete, except for fittings, which are expected to come from home. The boat is intended to be used as a lighter to load copra on the annual ship. Other boats were also in course of construction, and amongst them a beautifully modelled boat like, but some two feet longer than, the boat in which we had

come ashore. It is a centre-board boat, with two masts carrying a mainsail, foresail and jib; the rudder is manœuvred by lines with an auxiliary in the shape of a large oar in case of need. The general workmanship of the boats is exquisite, and called forth the admiration of several of the officers of the ship. The woods from Christmas Islands and the hard wood of the Cocos are used in combination.

5. We were welcomed on shore by Miss Ross and her sister Miss Mildred, and I was comfortably housed during my stay in the bachelor quarters, in which Mr. Sidney Ross also has his lodging.

6. The first visit of inspection was paid to the school, where I presented to Rajeli, the schoolmaster, a long map of the world and a small globe, kindly sent by the Government, and with which he appeared very pleased.

Rajeli had to announce that his pupils were reduced to seven, six of whom were pupils of last year, and one a new boy, the eldest being 13 years old, and the youngest (the new boy) eight; seven boys had left to work in the workshops.

Boys though willing to go to school are prevented from doing so by their parents, on the pretext either that they are wanted at home, or that their clothes are not good enough, though parents, as a rule, do not object to their boys going to the workshops.

Mr. Sidney Ross threw out a suggestion that attendance at school might be made compulsory for two years, say from 8 or 9 years old to 10 or 11, during which period, he thought, they could learn to read and write in Malay sufficiently well for all purposes of an island life, such as they have to look forward to.

Rajeli reported that the boys were doing well. I put a few questions to them, and they seemed intelligent but shy.

Rajeli asked for more books, a Primary A B C, and spelling book in English, and No. 3 Malay book, also for the stories of Hikayat Abdullah, Playaran Abdullah, Hikayat Miskin, and Galila Demenah.

The school hours are from 9 A.M. to noon and from 1 P.M. to 4 P.M.

I am not at all sure that it would be desirable to make education compulsory even in a limited degree. It would probably cause discontent. Hitherto, I understand, it has been entirely voluntary, and no pressure is brought to bear; if it is desired to extend education, I should think that the first step would be for Mr. Ross to exercise his influence in inducing the parents to send their children to school.

COCOS-KEELING AND CHRISTMAS ISLANDS. 1897.

7. Having walked through the Cocos side of the Settlement, I joined Dr. Croply in a visit to the Bantam village. The contrast is considerable.

The Cocos houses are in appearance neater and cleaner, externally and internally, than the Bantam houses.

The premises of the Cocos-born generally include a neatly kept garden of pink roses or scarlet hybiscus, or other flowers, with a fenced enclosure. In the Bantam village there is an absence of any attempt at gardening, the houses have not such a neat and clean appearance as the Cocos houses, and their interiors are more dingy, but on the whole appear to be fairly clean.

8. In the Bantam village we attempted to find a man named Omar, said to be suffering from beri-beri, but learnt that he had gone out to work. Curiously enough he died suddenly the next day, when the doctor was not on shore, and he was buried before the doctor came ashore again. The doctor saw and prescribed for a man almost blind. He thought the condition of his eyes was due to salt and sand driven into the face by the wind, ensuing inflammation, and neglect.

9. With the exception of the paralyzed boy mentioned by Mr. Keyser, these were the only two cases of sickness we heard of during our stay, and the general health of the people appears to have been good.

There have been no ascertained cases of beri-beri; Omar's death was most probably due to abscess of the liver.

10. I append a table (I) showing the population in June, 1896, and the alterations which have since taken place; the table includes the population of Christmas Island. The Cocos born population include the Ross family and three Norwegians, one of whom—Captain Syvensten of the "Clunies Ross"—has recently married a niece of Mr. George Ross. There were two other marriages, but I think these must be the two mentioned in my report on Christmas Island.

It will be noticed that whereas in 1896 the births recorded totalled 71, the births now recorded total only 46; on the other hand the deaths of children recorded last year were nearly half the births, viz., 33, and this year nearly one-third the births, viz., 16.

The deaths of the children are attributed in nearly every case to thrush, or what Mr. Keyser calls apthœ. Death occurred in all cases within two or three months of birth. I could obtain no evidence of neglect or any more serious charge, but I had no opportunity of discussing the matter with Mr. George Ross. Four deaths were the result of accident. Four Cocos men went

outside the lagoon to obtain birds for food, a squall capsized their boat and they were all drowned. Mr. Ross has since caused a notice in Malay to be posted warning the people not to go outside the lagoon. One woman died from paralysis some time after child-birth, and the remaining 12 died either from old age or some dropsical complaint.

It will also be observed that whereas the returns show that Cocos women exceed the Cocos men by 11, the Bantam men exceed the Bantam women by 20. It is much the same with the children; the Cocos boys are less by 23 than the girls, but the Bantam boys exceed the girls by 11. As regards adults this may be partly accounted for by the fact that when a Bantam girl marries a Cocos man, she passes into and is counted as a member of the Cocos community.

The Cocos girl compares favourably in appearance with the Cocos man. They are, as a rule, better set up and well developed, with remarkably straight backs. The men, so far as I observed, slouched and were more slovenly in bearing. The girls were, as a rule, good looking and taking. Here and there, however, thick negro lips were to be seen and sometimes curly hair. This is due to the importation of some West African negroes in the earlier days of the Settlement. The increase in the population is really due to the importation of 15 Bantamese.

11. The boy mentioned in paragraph 10 of Mr. Keyser's report I saw on several occasions, and the doctor also examined him. He is a good looking lad of 23 years of age. He is still helpless in the legs, but has improved considerably since last year, and the doctor thinks he may ultimately recover. He was bright and cheery, and exhibited to me his tortoise-shell and coco-nut carvings. His name is Amrye. A galvanic battery has been ordered for his cure, and it is hoped he may benefit by it.

12. I made many enquiries from various sources in the two villages, but could learn of no cause of complaint or discontent. I visited the Imaum and headman of each village, and appointed a time and place, of which due notice was given, for any one to come and see me who wished to say anything. In response, the two Imaums and two headmen came, as a matter of politeness, but had nothing further to say; six Bantamese, however, came forward and asked to be sent to Batavia. All were three-year contract expired men, two had cleared their debts, the other four had not, but Mr. Sidney Ross assured me that they would be sent back to Batavia, when opportunity offered. It might have been possible to take back two or three single men in the "Iphigenia," but as they were married men with families it was out of the question, and they expressed themselves willing to wait. They made no sort of complaint that they were detained.

13. The export during the year has been of copra only, and amounted to 777 tons 5 cwt. News of the amount realized had not reached Mr. Ross when I left, but it was expected to fetch about £12 per ton.

The copra in stock was 500 tons. The copra from these Islands, I am told, is used largely in the composition of soap. There were no imports, except of the usual supplies, and of hard wood from Christmas Island.

14. I append a table (II) * showing the maximum and minimum readings of the barometer and thermometer since 1894, with some remarks as to the weather. It is to be noted that all readings taken up to the end of August, 1896, were taken between 6 A.M. and 7 A.M. Since then, they have been taken three times a day, viz., between 6 A.M. and 7 A.M., noon and 1 P.M., and 4 P.M. and 5 P.M.

The prevailing winds are from E.S.E. There appears to be little or no dewfall, at any rate at this season of the year. Rollers coming into the lagoon from the N.E. and E. are alone dangerous to ships at anchor within the lagoon. Their occurrence is more frequent than the records show, but they are not easy of observation from New Selma. The hottest month of the year under report appears to have been March last, when the maximum and minimum morning, noon, and evening readings of the thermometer were as follows :—

Morning.		Noon.		Evening.	
Maximum.	Minimum.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Maximum.	Minimum.
82	73	92	77	86	80

During our stay the climate was delightful, and a sun-hat unnecessary.

In June last a large meteor was seen to trail across the lagoon from N.E. to S.W. It was so close that it was heard to swish through the air.

15. A visit to the North Keelings was not to be thought of. The landing, if possible at this time of the year, is fraught with danger.

The Island is uninhabited, and nothing was to be gained by my visiting it. It lies 15 or 16 miles away to the north, but it was not sighted either on approaching or leaving. During my stay, Mr. Sidney Ross piloted me over to West Island, five or six

* Not printed.

miles across the lagoon. After landing we walked about two miles through the coco-nut plantations, skirting a sort of inner lagoon, to a copra storehouse, near which are about 20 huts : these are used by the gangs sent over to work week by week. A good working gang usually completes its allotted task of husking, &c. by Friday, they then have Saturday and Sunday free, and generally return to their homes in New Selma. The clusters of coco-nuts on this Island appeared to be very thick and the trees to be doing well. I noticed at one place the branching palm which bears no fruit; it is described by Mr. Forbes in his book of travels in the Malay Archipelago (and indeed for almost any information with regard to these Islands, Mr. Forbes's book should be consulted). The coco-nuts are husked under the trees, and the husks left to assist in manuring the soil. Only a few women and girls were in the huts when I visited them : all expressed themselves content and happy; indeed on this and other occasions it was hardly necessary to ask the people as to their condition. Their bright pleased look when accosted by Mr. Sidney Ross was evidence of their contentment, and he seemed to be as much loved and respected as his father.

16. I could find no evidence of any crime whatever.

The Cocos Imaum had but an indistinct recollection of any trial. Mr. George Ross and Mr. Sidney Ross both assured me that, except for a little fruit stealing by lads, there had been no kind of crime for years.

The system that has been pursued in former years, but which, in the absence of crime, has undergone no serious test, is described by Mr. Keyser. It really seems to have amounted to a calling together of the elders of both communities, some 24 in number, with Mr. Ross as their president, to try the accused.

The accused was allowed to challenge any of his judges, and if he could show cause why any of them might be biassed against him, his objection would be allowed to prevail. After deciding on the objection, if any, some twelve, but apparently not all the elders, would be sworn to administer justice, though all took part.

The absence of crime is very remarkable. It is probably due to the great influence of the Ross family, assisted by other causes, such as constant work, the publicity of everything that goes on in the Island, and the absence of competition and of temptation.

No record of any trial or crime has been kept.

As regards civil disputes, Mr. Sidney Ross could only tell me of one instance ; it arose on the will of a man, written in pencil, who died some time back, and by which he bequeathed the

house and property on which he lived to one out of two daughters. A dispute arose between the daughters, but Mr. Ross quickly disposed of it by pointing out that, even if the will was good, the man had no power of disposition over property which did not belong to him.

By Mr. George Ross's permission, the sisters now live together in peace on the same premises.

There was also a matrimonial quarrel where a husband had accused another man of being too intimate with his wife. Nothing, however, came of it, for the man was unwilling to divorce his wife, who appeared to have been the temptress.

I should be loath to suggest, at present, any State-interference as regards the administration of justice in a village community which, for so many years, has been governed so ably and with results so satisfactory.

With regard to the morality of the people, as far as I could learn, there has been no pretence that immorality did not exist, but prostitution and venereal disease locally contracted are unknown. Unions, however, have been known which are not sanctioned either by the Imaum or Registrar of Marriages. The story of secret toddy drinking, however, prevails.

17. Sheep, goats, and pigs have all died off. Such grass as there is, is very coarse, and not fit for food, and only grows under the coco-nut trees, where it is not wanted.

The rat nuisance continues here, but this rat must not be confounded with the Christmas Island species (*Mus Macleari*). Centipedes, scorpions, copra-bugs, white ants, red ants and flies (*Cantharides*) are numerous, and there are a few moths and butterflies.

Grey and red mullet from the mud off West Island, flying-fish, snappers, and a sort of rock perch form a pleasant variety of fish food.

Isinglass was coming ashore in great quantities during our visit.

Frigate birds, boobies, and gannets abound, but are not so much in evidence as on Christmas Island.

I noticed the Java sparrow on several occasions in the coco-nut plantations, where I also saw the air-plant in flower.

A few pigeons and ground thrush (*Turdus erythropleurus?*) from Christmas Island have been imported and are doing well, and on Horsburgh Island a couple of canvas back duck (male and female) (local *blebis*), which arrived in a gale some years back, increased to twenty, but they are now reduced to seven only.

Here also is found the white tern or noddy, about which much has been said. Mr. Forbes identifies it as the *Gygis candida*, and describes its habits of laying its eggs thus :—"Its solitary egg is deposited on the leaf of a young coco-nut palm, at the time when the leaf has rotated from its vertical position to one nearly at right-angles to the stem. * * * * * * * The egg is laid in the narrow angular gap between two leaflets on the summit of the arch of the leaf, where it rests securely, without a scrap of nest, in what one would think the most unsafe position possible, yet defying the heaving and twisting of the leaves in the strongest winds. The leaf, as in all palms, goes on drooping further and further till it falls ; and among the settlers it is a subject of keen betting, when they see a tern sitting on an ominously withered leaf, whether the young bird will be hatched or not before the leaf falls. The result, I am told, has always been in favour of the bird ; if the leaf fall in the afternoon the tern will have escaped from the egg in the morning."

I was much interested in this account, but on enquiring from Mr. Sidney Ross, a keen observer, he told me that the true story was that as a rule the leaf did not fall till the young had learnt to fly. He made no mention of any betting on the subject, and I suspect that one instance of such a case has grown into a generality. So far as I could gather, the *locus* of the egg deposit is not confined to young palms. The bird breeds chiefly on Horsburgh Island, where observation, except at certain seasons of the year, is improbable. It would be interesting to know whether Mr. Forbes's account is given from personal observation or hearsay.

As to the identification of the bird, it is remarkable that neither Mr. Forbes, nor the records of H.M.S. "Challenger," nor Cassell's Natural History—both of which latter books speak of the bird as inhabiting Ascension Island and the South Seas—though otherwise describing the bird accurately as a beautiful, small white tern or noddy, with black eyes, make any mention of the beautiful purple blue of the beak up to the nostril ; the feet and tarsus (instep) are also purple blue with a white webbing, though the colouring is duller than the beak. Through the kindness of Mr. Sidney Ross, who sent a boat for the purpose, and with the assistance and skill of Paymaster Morton (a keen sport), I was lucky enough to procure specimens of the male, female and young, and two of the eggs : the egg has a dullish light ground with brown speckles.

The male and female are now set up at Raffles Museum. The skin of the young was too far gone for stuffing.

The young bird had some brown on its back and wings. Two or three hours after the birds were shot the colour of the beak and feet had died away, and the rapidity with which the colour disappeared may account for the non-mention of it by others, who

COCOS-KEELING AND CHRISTMAS ISLANDS. 1897.

may not have got close enough to see the bird in life, or who have not seen the bird soon enough after death.

I also obtained the egg of the black tern or noddy (*Sterna melanogaster ?*); an egg of each bird has been sent to the Museum. At Mr. Ridley's request, I also obtained a specimen of a deep-coloured hard wood (*Cordia*).

18. I was shown a great variety of coco-nuts, some of which had three or more ovary cavities, and some of which were only partially developed. They are well described by Mr. Forbes. I also procured two specimens of a coco-nut, which is supposed to be a distinct kind. It is called locally the "Winged Coco-nut." Mr. Birch evidently refers to the same nut and calls it the "Ram's horn Coco-nut." I saw one of the trees on which they grow, and all nuts on that tree assumed somewhat the same shape, but one of my specimens is undeveloped. The winged species has three distinct nuts something in the shape of ram's horns, all united together. I have sent them to Mr. Ridley for identification.

I procured a few corals and shells for the Museum; the latter are chiefly of the cyprœa or cowry class. Mr. Hanitsch has kindly identified them. (*See* Table III annexed.)

19. Mr. Sidney Ross expressed a hope that the next time a ship was sent she might be sent in September; he asserts that the sea is always calmer at that time of the year, and that the Trade Wind blows with much less force, and squalls are absent. I noticed, however, that when Mr. O'Connor visited the Islands in H. M. S. "Rattler" in September, 1887, he records that the weather was "very boisterous and squally, much against our "going about the Islands." On the other hand, from the records for September, 1894, 1895 and 1896 (*see* Table II *) it would appear that the weather was fairly settled.

During our stay huge rollers were observed between the north end of West Island and west end of Horsburgh, showing the danger it would be for ships lying where the "Iphigenia" was, if the direction of the rollers had been from the north-east or east.

Captain Dudding seemed to think that a smaller ship would serve the purpose better, and be able to get to the inner anchorage without that risk which a ship like the "Iphigenia," 300 feet long, and drawing over 20 feet, must necessarily run, if she attempted to do so. The inner anchorage is protected from rollers and would be an economy in the way of coals. Where the "Iphigenia" lay, she had to keep up steam all the time.

20. I had an opportunity of witnessing the dances referred to by Mr. Keyser. The last evening we were there, Captain Dudding and the ward room officers were invited to dinner at

* Not printed.

the family house. The villagers were all invited to come at 9 P.M. The native dances were of three kinds :—

(1) The *malengo* or posturing and scarf dance to the accompaniment of a song and drum, performed by men, but the Interpreter told me it was different to anything he had seen previously.

(2) A dance performed by men and women.

It is danced in pairs. Each partner stands opposite the other on either side of the room, a violin strikes up a sort of double shuffle air, and the partners advance and retire with double shuffle step and a gentle seesawing motion of the body, and finally cross in serpentine line and then repeat the operation again and again. The girls dance gracefully and quietly. The men were more energetic and noisy. It is a taking and most popular dance, and was repeated frequently during the night.

The third dance is something like the Sir Roger de Coverley, and danced to much the same air. It is too intricate to describe, but I noticed it was the only dance in which partners took hands or clasped one another ; its origin appeared to be European. The dances were chiefly confined to Cocos-born people, but one or two of the Bantamese bucks joined in, and the officers of the ship were gratified with waltzes and lancers. The dances were kept going all night, and it was certainly a most interesting sight.

21. Mr. Sidney Ross was unremitting in his kindness and attention and in affording me every facility in my enquiries. The kindest hospitality was shown to me by him and his sisters ; each member of the Ross family helped to make my stay thoroughly enjoyable.

22. We left the Keelings on Saturday evening, July 24th, and, after a run of 600 miles and an uncomfortable passage, reached Java Head early on Tuesday morning, 27th, the remaining distance to Tanjong Priok, Batavia, 130 miles, was accomplished by 3.30 P.M.

23. After staying at Batavia till Saturday morning, 31st July, we again weighed anchor, and reached Singapore at noon on the 2nd August, after a run of 620 miles. The whole voyage covered over 2,490 nautical miles, or say 2,800 ordinary miles.

24. In conclusion, I desire to express my appreciation of the great kindness, judicious hospitality, and constant attention that I received on board ship from Captain Dudding and every Officer of the ship.

ANDREW J. LEACH.

Singapore, 21st August, 1897.

Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands. 1897.

Table I.

POPULATION.

Nationality.	No. in June 1896.	Alterations since June, 1896.				Total, July 1897.
		Births.	Arrivals.	Deaths.	Departures.	
Cocos men,	101	—	—	8	—	93
„ women,	109	—	—	5	—	104
„ boys,	85	18	—	8	—	95
„ girls,	108	15	—	5	—	118
Bantam men,	54	—	14	3	3	62
„ women,	44	—	1	1	2	42
„ boys,	52	8	—	1	5	54
„ girls,	41	5	—	2	1	43
Total	594	46	15	33	11	611

Table III.

From Christmas Island.

Shells.

Cyprœa mauritiana.
„ caput serpentis.
„ species (?)

From Keeling-Cocos.

Shells.

Cyprœa tigris.
„ mauritiana.
„ arabica.
„ cameola.

TABLE III.—*cont.*

FROM KEELING-COCOS.

Shells.

Cyprœa vitellus.
„ lynx.
„ helvola.
„ madagascariensis (?)
„ 2 species (?)
Strombus certiginosus
„ species (?)
Bulla ampulla.
Trochus nitolicus.
Conus petrœus.
Conus sp. ?

Corals.

Madrepora elathrata.
„ (species ?)
Stylipora palmata.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 230.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 198.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

July 1898.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.; and
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1898.

[C.—8650-28.] *Price* 1*d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
196	Malta	1896
197	British New Guinea	1895–96
198	Turks and Caicos Islands	1896
199	Barbados	,,
200	Leeward Islands	1895
201	Trinidad and Tobago	1896
202	Gibraltar	,,
203	Fiji (Trade)	,,
204	Straits Settlements	1895
205	Do. do.	1896
206	Falkland Islands	,,
207	British Honduras	,,
208	Sierra Leone	,,
209	Grenada	,,
210	Hong Kong	,,
211	St. Lucia...	,,
212	St. Vincent	,,
213	St. Helena	,,
214	Seychelles	,,
215	Mauritius	,,
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1897
217	Fiji	1896
218	Ceylon	,,
219	Lagos	,,
220	Gold Coast	,,
221	Labuan	,,
222	British Guiana	1896–97
223	Rodrigues	1896
224	Basutoland	1896–97
225	Jamaica	,,
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
227	Leeward Islands	1896
228	Bermuda	1897
229	Gambia	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.

No. 230.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 198.)

GOVERNOR SIR A. W. L. HEMMING to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

King's House,
Jamaica,
12th May 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward to you copy of the Blue Book of the Turks and Caicos Islands for the year 1897, together with the Commissioner's Report thereon.

I have, &c.,

AUGUSTUS W. L. HEMMING,
Governor.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1897.

1.—TAXES, DUTIES, &c.

There is no alteration to report under this head.

2.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The Revenue figure of 1897, though £230 less than that of the previous year, was still larger by £1,636 than the average of the previous ten years 1887-96.

17058*—75—6/98 Wt 21620 D & S—5 (B)

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS. 1897

The total sum collected was £9,477, against £9,707 in 1896 and £7,312 in 1895, and exceeded the estimate by £1,224.

This result is attributable to the very large export of salt, with its proportionately large return from royalty and light dues, the figures being respectively £3,261 and £1,033, against £2,778 and £827 in the previous year; such increase, however, being more than balanced by a slight fall in the sums realised from import duties and some other minor heads, and a large decline in the receipts under the head of Post Office.

The balance carried forward from the previous year was £6,865, giving a gross available sum of £16,342.

The total Expenditure amounted to £8,384, being larger by £999 than the sum expended in 1896, the principal increase being under the head of Public Works, for which the figure was £1,896, as against £1,053 in the year previous.

The Revenue collected within the year exceeded by £1,093 the total Expenditure within the same period. Of the sum so in excess, £1,000 was invested by the Crown Agents in Victoria 4 per cent. Stock, leaving a working balance to carry forward to 1898 of £2,458, which, with the investment above mentioned and a further sum of £4,500 which the Dependency had already to its credit invested, gives a total credit balance of £7,958.

The financial condition is thus decidedly satisfactory.

3.—ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

There was a balance of Assets over Liabilities on the 31st December 1897 of £7,957 13s. 11d.

4.—PUBLIC DEBT.

The Dependency has no public debt.

5.—MUNICIPALITIES.

There are local boards, established by various legislative enactments, to deal with the following subjects, namely:—Health, quarantine, prisons, pilotage, salt ponds, education, and medical relief.

6.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The total expenditure under this head was £1,896, distributed as follows :—

	£
Department	319
Recurrent	1,013
Extraordinary	564
Total	£1,896

A Colonial Surveyor and Inspector of Public Works, appointed at the end of 1896, had charge of the Department, and hence it was possible to do a good deal.

The Government property was well looked after and maintained, and considerable improvement of the water supply at Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour effected by repairs and addition to the several storage tanks.

Work on the breakwater at Salt Cay, which, as mentioned in my last report, had been deferred until professional advice could be obtained, was recommenced and proceeded with satisfactorily throughout the year, the sum expended thereon being £448. This work—one of some magnitude for this little place—is now in a fair way to completion, and the Surveyor reports that he has been able to effect an appreciable economy over the probable cost of the undertaking had it been carried out on the original local lines.

The presence of a surveyor also enabled a good deal of useful and necessary survey work to be done, notably the laying out of an important uncultivated salina at Cockburn Harbour, for the lease of which negotiations were in progress during the year, which have now resulted in an arrangement by which this property will, it is hoped, be turned to good account.

7.—LEGISLATION.

The following Ordinances were passed during the year :—

No. 1.—The Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance.

No. 2.—The Pilotage and Harbour Ordinance, 1896, Amendment Ordinance.

No. 3.—The Jury Ordinance.

No. 4.—The Coroner's Ordinance.

No. 5.—The Cable Company's Ordinance, 1897.

No. 6.—The Annual Appropriation Ordinance, 1898.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS 1897.

The Jury Ordinance is a useful measure, the necessity for which has been long felt. It consolidates four Ordinances, the earliest of which dates from 1853, and effects several improvements, particularly the reduction in number of the jury from twelve to seven in civil cases, as also all criminal cases, not capital, while at the same time setting out the law in simpler and clearer form.

8.—LEGISLATIVE BOARD.

During the absence of the Commissioner on leave, the Judge of the Supreme Court, who acted as Commissioner, was appointed to act also as President of the Board, the official vacancy being filled by the appointment of Dr. L. O. Crosswell, the Government Medical Officer at Grand Turk. There were no other changes.

9.—CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

Mr. E. J. Cameron, Commissioner, was absent on leave from 21st May until the end of the year, his duties being performed during that period by Mr. J. Bayldon Walker, Judge of the Supreme Court.

10.—PENSIONS.

The pension list was further reduced during the year by the sum of £82 1*s.* 7*d.*, in consequence of the deaths of Mrs. Maxwell, widow of the late Rector at Grand Turk, and of two former Police Constables.

The total sum paid in pensions was £450 14*s.* 11*d.*

11.—FOREIGN CONSULS.

The following countries are represented :—

United States of America.

Sweden and Norway.

Denmark.

France.

Spain.

Dominican Republic.

12.—POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

The births for the year are returned as 201, against 168 deaths, and the marriages at 44, which is slightly above the average figure.

13.—EDUCATION.

There was no inspection during the year, but, as far as can be judged, the average attendance and the standard of teaching were fairly maintained.

14.—IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The total value of goods imported into the Dependency during the year was over £33,000, and the duty collected £3,568, both figures being somewhat above the average, but with no special feature calling for report.

The export of salt was 2,236,008 bushels, or some 120,000 bushels more than in 1894, the previous record year, and the royalty received by the Government on the export was £3,260. More than two-thirds of this quantity went during the first six months of the year, a great rush being made to get it into the United States before the coming into force of the new Tariff Bill, by which the old duty of 8 cents per 100 pounds on salt in bulk, which amounts as nearly as possible to 6 cents a bushel, is re-imposed.

Such re-imposition has, I regret to say, had the expected effect of bringing down the price to the old figure of 5½ cents to 6 cents a bushel, which leaves but a small margin over cost of production.

The revival of the ground fishery salt trade with British North America, spoken of in my last report, was fortunately maintained, 381,000 bushels going out in this form during the year.

The value of sisal hemp exported was £2,539, or more than double the figure of the previous year, and extraction and export are steadily continuing. At present prices, the outlook for plantations where the growth has been successful is rather more encouraging than it has been for some time.

The value of the sponge export from the Caicos Bank for the year mounted up to between £4,000 and £5,000, or nearly five times the sum of the previous year's taking. Nearly the whole of this is taken by Bahamas sponging craft and carried to Nassau for sale, the business being one that the Caiconian fishermen are too

idle to work at with any steadiness, and the local merchant, moreover, for some not very clear reason, is shy of meddling with. Thus the Dependency really reaps but a slight proportion of the benefit that should, one would suppose, accrue from this source of wealth.

A very small minor industry, the collection and export of palmetto straw, which gives employment to women and children in some of the Caicos Islands, has come into evidence again, owing principally to the troubles in Cuba, which have, as I understand, caused the supply ordinarily obtainable from there to fail.

The total value of the exports, of which over £41,000 was the value of the local products, was over £43,000—a not inconsiderable figure for a Dependency of this calibre.

Comparative tables showing the trade and other statistics of the Dependency are attached :—

—	1895.	1896.	1897.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Value of imports	26,734 18 0	30,245 4 4	33,239 2 7
Import duties collected ...	2,958 13 2	3,701 3 4	3,567 11 6

Value of Exports of Domestic Produce and Manufactures in the Years 1895, 1896, and 1897.

—	1895.	1896.	1897.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salt	19,432 5 8	29,106 18 6	33,630 5 5
Sponge	552 5 5	957 7 0	4,483 19 9
Bahama hemp	620 6 10	1,047 8 1	2,538 18 11
Salt fish	69 0 0	6 0 0	25 0 0
Turtle shell	150 0 0	230 0 0	277 0 0
Palmetto straw	—	43 0 0	210 0 0
Total ... £	20,823 17 11	31,390 13 7	41,165 4 1

Value of Imports and Exports from and to each Country for the Years 1895, 1896, and 1897.

Imports.

——	1895.	1896.	1897.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom	3,317 12 2	3,284 8 3	3,478 7 10
British North America ...	1,777 7 6	1,242 4 6	2,181 19 10
British Colonies	1,423 2 8	1.692 17 3	2,261 10 10
United States of America	18,103 9 8	22,080 15 2	20,466 12 1
Other Foreign Countries	2,113 6 0	1,944 19 2	4,850 12 0
Total ... £	26,734 18 0	30,245 4 4	33,239 2 7

Exports.

——	1895.	1896.	1897.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom	24 17 10	240 0 0	830 0 0
British North America ...	1,571 19 11	6,266 6 3	6,820 14 9
British Colonies	235 6 11	597 0 6	4,630 17 7
United States of America	17,908 10 5	23,278 18 9	28,547 2 5
Other Foreign Countries	1,947 2 7	1,115 8 11	2,475 0 8
Total ... £	21,687 17 8	31,497 14 5	43,303 15 5

Average quantity of Salt exported from each Port for the seven years 1889-95 ; and the actual Export for 1896 and 1897.

Ports.	1889-95.	1896.	1897.
Grand Turk	634,692	769,068	847,452
Salt Cay	427,948	513,109	502,792
Cockburn Harbour ...	722,844	622,450	885,764
Total Bushels ...	1,785,484	1,904,627	2,236,008

Salt in the Colony on	31st December	1894	130,000	bushels.
Do.	do.	do.	1895	490,000	„
Do.	do.	do.	1896	770,000	„
Do.	do.	do.	1897	1,000,000	„

15.—SHIPPING.

The total number and tonnage of vessels entered and cleared for the last three years is shown below :—

Sailing Vessels.

—	Entered.		Cleared.		Total.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1895 ...	249	31,694	252	31,744	501	63,438
1896 ...	296	48,138	294	47,604	590	95,742
1897 ...	337	58,679	342	57,551	679	116,230

Steamers.

—	Entered.		Cleared.		Total.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1895 ...	66	88,343	66	88,343	132	176,686
1896 ...	62	82,968	62	82,968	124	165,936
1897 ...	73	106,072	73	106,072	146	212,144

Total British and Foreign.

—	1896.			1897.		
	Sailing.	Steam.	Total.	Sailing.	Steam.	Total.
British	39,925	24,672	64,597	40,526	28,996	69,522
Foreign	55,817	141,264	197,081	75,704	183,148	258,852
Total ...	95,742	165,936	261,678	116,230	212,144	328,374

The Dependency was not visited by any of Her Majesty's ships during 1897.

There were two wrecks during the year, both on the reefs off the Caicos islands.

16.—AGRICULTURE.

The year was a very dry one, and the provision crops in the Caicos were short in consequence, so that some small sum had to be expended on relief. The attempt at revival of cotton cultivation in the Caicos Islands was carried on, and during the present year it is probable that some moderate quantity of cotton will be shipped.

17.—MINES AND MANUFACTURES.

There is nothing new to report under this head.

18.—GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

The total number of prisoners committed during 1897 was 33, of whom 6 were for safe keeping, and 27 for purposes of penal imprisonment.

The daily average in the gaol was 5.

19.—CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The total number of offences reported to the police or to the magistrates in 1897 was 181, against 222 in 1896.

Of the offences reported in 1897,

59 were for offences against the person.
9 „ „ praedial larceny.
30 „ „ offences against property other than praedial larceny
92 „ „ other offences.

The total number of convictions in the inferior Courts in 1897 was 122, against 165 in 1896.

These convictions are classified as follows :—

34 for offences against the person.
5 „ praedial larceny.
17 „ offences against property other than praedial larceny.
66 „ other offences.

The convictions in the Supreme Court were as follows :—

2 for offences against the person.
4 „ „ „ „ property.

The acquittals were as follows :—

In the inferior Courts ...	...	...	43
In the Supreme Court...	...	...	5

20.—HOSPITALS AND ASYLUMS.

There is no hospital or asylum. In cases of lunacy the patient is placed in gaol under medical supervision, and, if necessary, ultimately sent to the asylum at Jamaica. There were four such patients maintained at Jamaica during the year, at a cost to the Dependency of £110 9*s.* 6*d.*

21.—METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

There was an average rainfall at Grand Turk, but the fall at Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour was small, and the water supply in the Government tanks had to be carefully husbanded.

The hurricane months happily passed without the approach of any disturbance to cause anxiety.

Tables of Temperature and Rainfall are appended :—

	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.
January ...	80	73	77
February ...	80	76	78
March ...	80	77	78
April ...	82	71	79
May ...	84	80	81
June ...	85	83	84
July ...	86	84	85
August ...	87	85	86
September ...	87	85	86
October ...	87	80	84
November ...	84	79	81
December ...	82	78	80

Rainfall

For the year 1897 compared with the average for the previous seven years.

Month.	Grand Turk.	Salt Cay.	Cockburn Harbour.
January	·30	·17	·08
February	nil.	nil.	nil.
March	·60	·60	·99
April	3·41	2·96	1·78
May	7·14	4·39	4·34
June	nil.	·05	nil
July	·98	36	32
August	·32	·03	·29
September ...	1·59	94	·34
October	2·32	1·54	2·32
November	8·19	7·16	4·48
December	·77	1·11	1·26
Total inches ...	25·62	19·31	16·20
Average for 7 years 1890-96.	25·85	23·69	19·73

22.—SAVINGS BANKS.

The Government Savings Bank was opened in 1890. The attached statement shows its condition at the present time :—

Bank.	Number of Depositors.		Deposited.		Withdrawn.		To Credit.	
	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Grand Turk	88	99	430 7 8	433 11 1	194 13 5	523 10 8	896 3 11	806 4 4
Salt Cay	48	49	51 16 1	34 17 9	29 16 0	55 13 5	80 9 0	59 13 4
Cockburn Harbour	29	27	97 15 1	75 18 11	77 2 10	87 9 4	293 5 4	281 14 11
Total	165	175	£579 18 10	£544 7 9	£301 12 3	£666 13 5	£1,269 18 3	£1,147 12 7

23.—POST OFFICE.

The ordinary Post Office revenue was £223 10s. 2d., but the sale of stamps to dealers and others gave only £310, or some £640 less than in 1896.

The Mail service was satisfactorily performed during the year by Messrs. Pickford and Black's contract steamer from Halifax, and the Clyde line of steamers from New York.

24.—GENERAL REMARKS.

The year 1897 was one of financial prosperity, as will be seen from the revenual figures. The salt crop was a very abundant one and the shipments exceptionally heavy, the bulk of which realised a remunerative figure, while continuous employment was provided for the labourers.

The Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen was loyally and enthusiastically celebrated at Grand Turk, and the happening of this auspicious event will be marked in due course by the erection of suitable memorials at each of the three settlements, taking the form of Public Libraries at Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour, and the addition of a Clock Tower to the already existing Library at Grand Turk, erected in 1887. A sum of £700 is to be devoted to this purpose.

The year 1897 will furthermore always be notable in the history of the Dependency as the one in which arrangements were at length concluded by the Imperial Government with the Halifax and Bermudas Cable Company for the extension of the cable from Bermuda *viâ* Grand Turk to Jamaica. It is hoped that good may accrue to the place, as time goes on, from the establishment of this cable connection, which is now a *fait accompli.*

The other side of the picture is the unpleasant fact of the re-imposition of the duty on salt by the latest United States Tariff, which so materially affects the trade and general welfare of the place.

There is no difference, however, between the present trade conditions and those existent for many years prior to 1894, and there is therefore, I think, no reason to be despondent as to the Dependency's prospects, though undoubtedly things are not likely to be quite as bright for a time as they have been in the past four years.

EDWARD J. CAMERON,
Commissioner.

Grand Turk,
30th March 1898.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 1-3, Great St. Thomas Apostle, E.C.

1898.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 238.

BAHAMAS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 193.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
September 1898.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 1-3, Great St. Thomas Apostle, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.; and
32, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, Hanover Street, Edinburgh, and
90, West Nile Street, Glasgow; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., Limited, 104, Grafton Street, Dublin.

1898.

[C.—9046–6.] *Price* 1*d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
209	Grenada	1896
210	Hong Kong	,,
211	St. Lucia...	,,
212	St. Vincent	,,
213	St. Helena	,,
214	Seychelles	,,
215	Mauritius	,,
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1897
217	Fiji	1896
218	Ceylon	,,
219	Lagos	,,
220	Gold Coast	,,
221	Labuan	,,
222	British Guiana	1896–97
223	Rodrigues	1896
224	Basutoland	1896–97
225	Jamaica	,,
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
227	Leeward Islands	1896
228	Bermuda	1897
229	Gambia	,,
230	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
231	Barbados...	,,
232	Lagos	,,
233	St. Vincent	,,
234	Sierra Leone	,,
235	Falkland Islands	,,
236	Straits Settlements	,,
237	British New Guinea	1896–97

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 238.

BAHAMAS.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 193.)

GOVERNOR SIR G. T. CARTER to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Nassau,

6th August 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith one copy of the Blue Book Returns relating to the Bahamas for 1897, together with a Report from Mr. Hesketh Bell, the Acting Colonial Secretary.

2. Mr. Bell's report is an interesting one, and indicates an advance in the material prosperity of the Colony, notwithstanding the fact that the revenue for the year was about £2,000 less than that for 1896. He appropriately points out, however, that it is more than £6,000 in excess of the amount collected in 1895, and nearly £14,000 more than the revenue for 1894.

3. I may anticipate so far as to say that this healthy condition of affairs continues, the improvement this year being still more accentuated; while the revenue collected up to the end of July 1897 amounted to £38,670, that up to the same period in 1898 realized £46,012 3*s.* 5*d.*

I have, &c.,

G. T. CARTER.

496*—75—8/98 Wt 21620 D & S—5 (B)

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1897.

FINANCIAL.

It will be noted with satisfaction that the financial condition of the Colony gives no cause for alarm.

The revenue collected in 1897 amounted to £62,754, and though about £2,000 less than the sum received in the preceding year, it was, nevertheless, more than £6,000 in excess of the amount collected in 1895, and nearly £14,000 more than the revenue for 1894. The decrease in 1897 lay in the Customs receipts, and had been anticipated in the Estimates. A severe drought in 1896 had caused failure of the provision crops in many of the islands, and had consequently encouraged large importations of food-stuffs which were liable to duty. Last year the crops were above the average, and the heavy importations of flour and hominy were correspondingly reduced.

The expenditure amounted to £63,405, which included £1,775 paid out of the Surplus Monies carried forward from 1896. The expenditure on account of the Public Debt exceeded that of 1896 by £1,290, and amounted to a total of £8,384. This excess was due to a new liability incurred for the liquidation of the Treasury debentures amounting to £6,000, which were issued in 1896 and are extinguishable in October 1906. There was also an increase of the expenditure on the Charitable Institutions entailed by the appointment and travelling expenses of an English trained nurse.

The expenditure on Public Works amounted to £6,644, exclusive of monies specially appropriated out of the Surplus Funds of 1896, and considerable improvements were effected in several of the islands.

PUBLIC DEBT.

The Public Debt of the Colony stands at £119,000. The two small loans raised in 1894 and 1896, amounting to £5,000 and £6,000 respectively, are being very rapidly extinguished by large annual instalments. The Sinking Fund for the Cable Loan now amounts to £3,839.

LEGISLATION.

The annual session of the Legislature produced 38 Acts, most of which were amendments of existing Statutes, and none of marked importance.

POPULATION.

The census of 1891 gave a total population for the whole Colony of 47,565. It is calculated that the population increases at the rate of about 800 each year, so that the present inhabitants of the Bahamas probably number over 52,000. No distinction is made in registering the white and coloured population, but the dark-coloured inhabitants may be estimated to outnumber those of European descent in the proportion of 6 to 1. The average birth-rate is 45 per 1,000, and the death-rate 24·7 per 1,000. The infant mortality is high and unduly raises the death-rate.

The climate of the Bahamas is very healthy and particularly conducive to longevity. Yellow fever has not been known for twenty years, and malarial fever is comparatively rare.

The Colony is remarkably well provided with places of worship, there being no less than 274 churches, chapels, and meeting houses scattered among the various islands. The Wesleyans and Baptists largely predominate.

EDUCATION.

The usual grant of £4,500 was expended by the Board of Education. There are 43 Government Board Schools, with 2,956 boys and 2,821 girls; total, 5,777 on the rolls. The average attendance was 3894·1. There are also 11 private schools receiving Government aid to the extent of £168, and with 958 scholars on their rolls. In addition to these, 2,472 boys and girls receive tuition at private schools, of which 31 are connected with the Church of England.

In his report for 1897 on the Government Board Schools the Inspector made the following remarks :—

> " The schools are conducted as nearly as circumstances " will permit on the same lines as those of the British and " Foreign School Society.
>
> " The qualifications of the teachers and the results pro- " duced are gradually improving, but the comparatively " large number of small schools and consequently small " salaries, the isolation and lack of intelligent supervision of " many of the teachers, and the long distances and rough " roads, often rendered impracticable by rain, which many " of the pupils have to travel, are unavoidable hindrances.
>
> " The cost of buildings, furniture, materials, and adminis- " tration is not included in the sums set down for the several " schools. During 1896 the grants paid to the Board of " Education, and the salaries of two officers not paid out of

BAHAMAS. 1897.

" these grants, amounted to £4,800, which gives 14*s.* 3*d.* for " each pupil on the rolls, or £1 1*s.* 1½*d.* for each one in " average attendance, including the grant-in-aid schools."

TRADE.

IMPORTS.

The total imports into the Colony in 1897 were valued at £186,010, of which £131,000 worth came from the United States of America, £46,000 from the United Kingdom, £4,400 from British Colonies, and £4,400 from various foreign countries.

The principal imports from the United Kingdom comprised cotton, woollen, linen, and silk goods ; earthenware, hardware sugar, rice, preserved meats, and machinery. From the United States the Colony obtained chiefly flour, cornmeal, butter, cattle, kerosine oil, lard, lumber, and shingles. There were also very large importations from America of cotton and woollen goods, earthenware, glassware, and furniture. It is, however, very satisfactory to note that the trade with the Mother Country has increased in a much higher ratio than that with the United States. During the last seven years the importations from America have only increased by £1,143, in a total value of £131,000, while there was an increase of £6,428 in the same period in the value of the imports from the United Kingdom, on a total of £46,000. The main increase in the British trade lay in the importation of rice, soap, machinery, and textile goods. The American manufacturers, however, appear to be competing strenuously in the supply of cotton stuffs, and show a much keener desire to supply showy goods, which catch the public taste, than is apparent among the English makers.

In spite of a popular desire for increased traffic both in Canada and in the Bahamas, the trade with the Dominion is very insignificant. In 1897 it only amounted to a value of £198. Tentative negotiations have been made with a view to an interchange of preferential duties, but they have, so far, only reached an initial stage. Though Canada could supply at slightly cheaper rates a large number of products at present imported from the United States, the absence of direct steam communication acts as a bar to the transfer of trade.

The importations of rum, gin, and other spirits amounted in 1897 to a total of 25,000 gallons. No intoxicating liquor is manufactured in the Colony. Rum comes entirely from Jamaica, while gin is imported from Holland.

There is reason to believe that the smuggling which was formerly carried on to a considerable extent between some of the islands and Jamaica has been reduced, and that the 25,000 gallons, shown by the Customs returns, may be taken to represent fairly accurately the total consumption of intoxicating spirits by the inhabitants of the Colony. Estimating the population to number 52,000, we find that the average consumption of spirits per caput per annum is barely half a gallon. This very moderate proportion is probably the lowest to be found in any sub-tropical Colony. It is the more noteworthy from the fact that, owing to the low duty levied under the Customs tariff, the retail price of spirits is probably less in the Bahamas than in any other place in the West Indies. The duty here is only 5*s.* per proof gallon, while in Jamaica, for instance, it is 12*s.* 6*d.* per gallon. A pint of rum or gin may be brought in the Bahamas for 1*s.*, and spirits are consequently within easy reach of the labouring classes. Drunkenness, however, is less frequently seen in these islands than in the towns of Great Britain, and there is reason to conclude that, even setting aside the zealous influence of temperance societies working in the Colony, the coloured native of the Bahamas is quite alive to the evils of an excessive consumption of spirits and is well able to take care of himself in such matters.

EXPORTS.

The exports from the Bahamas in 1897 were valued, locally, at £149,000, being £10,000 in excess of the value reported in 1896.

Of the total exports, a value of £114,000 went to the United States, £13,600 to Great Britain, £6,900 to Holland, and £10,600 to France. The principal products were sponges, pine-apples, sisal-fibre, oranges, grape-fruit, turtle-shell, salt, and various kinds of timber.

Sponge.

In spite of periodical alarms concerning the alleged exhaustion of the sponge beds, the fishery continues to be a flourishing industry. Prices in 1897 ruled high, and the various kinds exported, weighing 1,228,000 lbs., were valued locally at £90,000. During nine months in the year, the sponge fishery provides employment for large numbers of men and boys, and over 500 small schooners are engaged in it. The vessels are usually owned by capitalists, and the proceeds of a voyage are divided into a number of shares which are distributed, in varying proportions, between owner, captain, and crew. A voyage usually lasts from six to eight weeks, and is frequently very profitable to all parties. Small schooners

BAHAMAS. 1897.

have been known to come into port after a six weeks' voyage with sponges worth from £300 to £400. The sponges are sold by auction in an Exchange at Nassau, and are chiefly purchased by agents for firms in New York. The processes of clipping, trimming, and packing sponges finds employment for a considerable number of males and females in Nassau.

The use of dredges or diving apparatus is forbidden by law, and the fishery is consequently restricted to those shallow banks where the sponges, growing on the bottom, can be reached by a long pole furnished with an iron hook. It is probable that at greater depths the yield would be much richer and the sponges of finer texture.

Sisal or Bahamas Hemp.

The shipment of this product during 1897 amounted to a little more than 402 tons. Very low prices ruled in the American and English markets, and the new industry was in danger of a complete collapse. Two of the most important enterprises, wherein very large capital had been invested, came to a termination, and others showed signs of a speedy dissolution. Towards the close of the year, however, the price of sisal-fibre advanced very considerably, and the improvement has since been maintained. A fresh impetus has been given to the industry, and there is every reason to believe that while the very sanguine anticipations made at the commencement will have to be considerably modified, the Colony will ultimately benefit largely from the cultivation and manufacture of sisal.

Fruit.

The shipments of fruit were more valuable than those of many previous years. The severe frosts, which in 1895 had desolated the orange groves of Florida, still showed their effects in the diminished output of the Southern States. In spite of the heavy protective rate levied on imported fruit under the McKinley tariff, the productions of the Bahamas showed themselves still able to compete with the crops of Florida, and owing to a marked improvement in the packing of oranges and other fruit, the prices realized in 1897 were very satisfactory to the Bahamas growers. Though still inferior to the finer varieties produced in Florida and California, the oranges grown in these islands have a very good flavour and could easily be improved by greater care in cultivation. The climatic conditions of the Bahamas and their coralline soil would appear to be particularly favourable to the successful cultivation of all citrus fruits. Many of the adversities against which the Florida orange planters have to contend are not to be encountered in these islands. Frost is unknown,

excessive droughts are rare, insect pests and diseases may be kept within bounds, while the price of land and the rates of labour are much below those current in the Southern States. If the hundreds of young Englishmen who have had such disastrous experiences with orange groves in Florida had made their experiments in the Bahamas, there is good reason to believe that their fate would have been very different. Unfortunately for them and for the Colony, the possibilities of these islands in the direction of fruit growing have never been "boomed" at the proper moment, and by means of an extraordinary amount of judicious advertising, Florida attracted to herself a vast amount of British capital which has, for the most part, been a complete loss to the unfortunate investors.

The Bahamas still possess hundreds of thousands of acres of land thoroughly suited to the cultivation of citrus fruits, and young energetic men with small capital might do much worse than consider these islands as an encouraging locality for the speedy development of a moderate investment. Dr. Morris, C.M.G., the Assistant Director of the Gardens at Kew, who visited this Colony in 1895, and gave a series of lectures on its agricultural resources, expressed himself very hopefully concerning the favourable prospects of orange growing in the Bahamas. Persons interested in the subject may refer to the printed reports of Dr. Morris's lectures which contain much valuable information.

In addition to two and a half millions of oranges which were exported in 1897, the Colony also sent to the markets of New York over six hundred thousand grape-fruit. This fruit, sometimes known as the *Pomela* or "forbidden fruit," has suddenly sprung into much popularity in the United States. It is a variety of the citrus family, somewhat larger than an orange. Its bitter-sweet flavour is very refreshing, and the juice is considered to have a remarkably good effect on the digestive organs. A few years ago grape-fruit was almost unsaleable, while it now fetches from sixpence to eighteen-pence apiece in the New York markets. Considerable groves of grape-fruit trees are now being established in Florida, Jamaica, and in these islands, and the output will shortly be considerable. Owing, however, to the increased frequency of severe frosts in Florida, the British sub-tropical Colonies ought to have the advantage over their American competitors, and prospects are therefore encouraging.

Pineapples.

After sponge, the most important productions of the Bahamas are pineapples, of which no less than nearly five millions were shipped to the United States in 1897. They are chiefly grown on the islands of Eleuthera, San Salvador, and Long Island, but

BAHAMAS. 1897.

nearly every island of considerable size possesses soil which is suited to the cultivation of pineapples. The species produced is known as the "Scarlet" or red Spanish, and is of inferior quality. It is, however, a good traveller, and four-fifths of the output of these islands go to the canning factories at Baltimore. The methods of cultivation are shockingly primitive. As many as twenty thousand plants are crammed into an acre of more or less rocky ground, and it is only during the last three or four years that chemical fertilizers have been used on these fields.

In most cases, the pineapples are grown on the *metayer* system, the owners of the large tracts of land sharing with the cultivators the crop of fruit. These proprietors make advances in cash or provisions to the labourers until the reaping of a crop, and the cultivator is precluded, under an agreement, from selling his share to any other than the landlord. The price to be paid for the fruit varies from one shilling to one and sixpence a dozen, according to the date of production, and as the cultivator does not receive more for a fruit weighing 6 lbs. than he does for one that is only half that size, quantity and not quality is the object of his labour. From 18 months to two years must elapse between the planting and the reaping of a crop of pineapples, and in that interval the cultivator will have required so many advances in cash and provisions for the maintenance of his family that his account with the landlord in the shipping season is very often on the wrong side. This system is open to much objection. Apart from the unsatisfactory transactions in truck, the method acts as a bar to any improvement in cultivation and tends to the elimination of any independence on the part of the labourer.

When ripe the pineapples are cut and carried on the heads of men and women to the beach nearest the plantation, where they are shipped in large American sailing vessels. It will hardly be credited that in most cases the fruit is shipped in bulk in the ships' holds, and as a large schooner will carry from 75,000 to 150,000 pineapples, the condition of the fruit in the lowest layers when it arrives in Baltimore, after a 10 days' passage, may be better imagined than described. In spite, however, of these intensely primitive methods, the pineapple cultivation in the Bahamas is one of considerable profit and importance to the Colony, but there is every reason to believe, if more care were taken and a superior grade of fruit cultivated, the results would be manifestly more profitable to every one concerned. Tentative efforts are now being made to encourage the cultivation of the finer varieties of pineapples, and there seems to be no reason why the London market, which is now principally supplied by the Azores and the Canary Islands, should not provide a profitable outlet for Bahamas fruit of a superior grade.

Factories for the canning of pineapples have lately been established in Nassau and in Eleuthera, and in 1897 they shipped more than 20,000 cases of preserved fruit.

Salt.

The salt industry cannot be said to be flourishing. The output during the last seven years has decreased by one-half, and in 1897 amounted to barely 100,000 bushels. The heavy protective duty imposed by the United States Tariff has almost proved a death-blow to the trade, and the only markets now open to Bahamas salt are those of Canada and Jamaica. The islands principally interested are Inagua, Rumcay, and Exuma. Excellent salt can be produced in the pans there, but the industry is unfortunately handicapped by the entire absence of shipping facilities and the want of capital.

Turtle Shell.

The shallow seas around the Bahama Islands abound with turtles ; and turtle shell, valued locally at £5,600, was exported last year from the Colony. The creatures are generally caught in nets, and any specimen of fair size produces shell to the value of £2 or £3. Those which produce this valuable commodity are not edible, and are locally known as the "Hawks-Bill." The edible turtle is known as the "Green" one, and is also plentiful in these waters. When small ones are caught, they are deposited in large ponds known as "Crawls," where, after having been branded with their owner's mark, they are left to feed upon a particular kind of marine grass until they have attained a marketable size. Turtle meat sells in the local markets at 3d. per pound of live weight, and it is probable that an enterprise for the preparation of a concentrated form of turtle soup, such as has recently been established in Jamaica, would prove a profitable undertaking.

Woods.

The output of various kinds of valuable woods has of late years considerably decreased. During 1897 the quantities of lignum vitæ, mahogany, satin wood, braziletto, and log-wood barely amounted to £100. The denudation of the forests near the sea-board and the difficulties of transport from the interior of the islands are probably the causes of this reduction in exports.

Cotton.

Cotton, which was formerly the staple product of these islands, has practically ceased to be a production of this Colony.

BAHAMAS. 1897.

Several efforts have been made to re-establish the cultivation, but all experiments have failed owing to the presence of an insect pest, which apparently cannot be eradicated.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The total number of persons who suffered imprisonment in 1897 was 1,783, as compared with 1,997 in the preceding year. Of these, however, only 12 were convicted in the Superior Courts, the remainder being punished for minor offences. It is to be regretted that in spite of the prevalence of prædial larceny in the Colony, the number of convictions for that offence amounted to only 33.

HOSPITALS.

261 males and 166 females were admitted to the hospital in Nassau during the year, of whom 83 died. The diseases most prevalent were phthisis, rheumatism, syphilis, ulcers and abcesses, malarial fever, and intestinal complaints. 30 cases of accidents were treated.

The lunatic and leper asylums are still connected with the general hospital—an arrangement which is open to much objection. In the leper wards 16 cases were segregated and treated during the year, and two of the patients died.

12 males and 8 females were admitted into the lunatic asylum, while three males and three females died during the year. The average daily number of inmates was 29.

On the 22nd June, His Excellency Sir W. F. Haynes-Smith laid the foundation stone of a new male lunatic ward, to be erected at a cost of £1,500 in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen. The building has been almost completed and is a handsome and commodious structure.

Owing to the appointment of an English trained nurse the internal administration of the hospital has been considerably improved.

In addition to those who receive medical or surgical treatment in the hospital, a number of infirm and aged persons, of both sexes, are cared for as destitute paupers. Prescriptions are also given gratis to out-patients, and food is distributed to a considerable number of pensioners in Nassau and the out-islands.

The total cost to the Colony of the hospitals and asylums now exceeds £5,000 per annum, being no less than one-twelfth of the public income. Each year, the Commissioners of the New

Providence Asylum apply for larger grants from the Legislature, and while the general prosperity of the Colony appears to be making marked progress, the calls upon public charity seem nevertheless to increase annually. In 1890 a sum of £1,676 was found to be sufficient for the maintenance of the hospital and asylum, while in 1897 the Legislature was asked to vote no less than £3,597 for the up-keep of the institution in addition to salaries, &c.

There is reason to believe that free medical aid is taken advantage of by persons who could afford to pay for professional care, and that many of the infirm and aged who have been maintained in the asylum are the parents of children who are well able to support their relatives. Many of these undutiful sons and daughters have emigrated to Key West and other places in America, where they are beyond the reach of claims, and they leave their aged parents in a destitute condition under a comforting assurance that a paternal Government will not allow them to starve.

Meteorological Observations.

The temperature of the air varied from the maximum of 90·5 in August to the minimum 56·0 in February. The mean temperature for the year was 79·4.

The rainfall was slightly over the average and measured 62·27 inches. There were no hurricanes or severe storms, and the general climatic conditions of the Colony were very good.

Savings Bank.

The Savings Bank attached to the General Post Office continues to make satisfactory progress. The depositors on the 31st December numbered 1,051, and the total amount to their credit was £9,523 5*s.* 4*d.*

Post Office and Telegraphs.

The postal revenue of 1897 amounted to £2,452, and the expenditure to £5,445. The Colony paid in subsidies for the conveyance of mails beyond the Colony the sum of £3,650. The department during 1897 dealt with 173,068 letters, 3,483 post-cards, 59,842 newspapers, 53,614 book-packets, and 2,639 parcels.

The telegraph cable worked in a satisfactory manner and there were no serious delays in the transmission of messages. 2,503 cablegrams were dealt with, in addition to a considerable amount

BAHAMAS 1897.

of press news supplied every day for the information of the public. The receipts, however, compared unfavourably with those of 1896, being less by nearly £200.

GENERAL REMARKS.

It may be reported, in conclusion, that the Colony is, generally speaking, in a flourishing state, and that its condition has improved very materially during the last five years.

Within that short period the revenue has risen from £47,000 to over £62,000. Instead of constant disparity between revenue and expenditure, and frequent necessity for increasing the public indebtedness of the Colony, an equilibrium has at last been established in the finances, and there is every reason to hope that the Customs Tariff may in the near future be safely reduced. An import duty upon almost all manufactured goods, amounting to 25 per cent. *ad valorem*, together with heavy specific rates levied on several important articles of consumption, would seem, at first sight, to entail a heavy rate of taxation on the community. It should be remembered. however, that direct taxation barely exists in the Bahamas, and that five-sixths of the revenue are derived from the import duties. There is no tax on land, while the rates on house property only amount to a shilling in the pound of rental, from which the tenements of the labouring classes are entirely exempt. The average taxation per head of the inhabitants of the Bahamas only amounts to about 24*s*. per annum, and this rate compares favourably with that of any other sub-tropical Colony of similar size and importance.

The marked improvement in the local conditions may, I think, be mainly ascribed to the following causes :—Higher prices realised for their products by the fruit growers, who have benefited by the damage caused by repeated frosts to the orange groves of their competitors in Florida ; the increased value of sponge, which is the main product of the Colony ; the recent establishment of a winter mail service with Florida, which has resulted in bringing a vastly increased number of American tourists and visitors to Nassau ; and, lastly, the almost continued presence in our port during the troubles in Cuba, of at least one of Her Majesty's ships of war, whose officers and crews necessarily place a certain amount of money in circulation.

As far as can be judged at present, the prospects of the Colony are very encouraging. The sisal industry is being invigorated by the recent rise in prices, and the 20,000 acres now under cultivation will shortly multiply ten-fold the Colony's output of fibre. The peasant proprietors are planting out numbers of small orange groves and fields of pineapples, and are turning their attention to the provision of early vegetables

for the winter markets of the north. Land and houses have risen considerably in value, and negotiations are now in favourable train for the immediate erection in Nassau of a great hotel, which will contain not less than 340 bed-rooms, and which will form the latest extension of the remarkable system of palatial hotels that are connected with the Florida East Coast Railway. It is estimated that no less than 100,000 tourists travel every winter from the Northern States to Florida, and by means of the handsome mail service which the Colony has subsidized to run three times a week during the season between Nassau and Miami, it is hoped that a portion of this wealth-distributing stream may be diverted to the Bahamas, where the climate and natural attractions are far superior to anything offered by Florida.

HESKETH BELL,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

July 28th 1898.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 1, 2, & 3, Great St. Thomas Apostle, E.C.

1898.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 262.

BARBADOS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1898.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 231.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
July 1899.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.; and
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1899.

[C.—9046-30.] *Price 2d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
230	Turks and Caicos Islands	1897
231	Barbados	,,
232	Lagos	,,
233	St. Vincent	,,
234	Sierra Leone	,,
235	Falkland Islands	,,
236	Straits Settlements	,,
237	British New Guinea	1896–97
238	Bahamas	1897
239	St. Lucia	,,
240	St. Helena	,,
241	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
242	British Honduras	,,
243	Malta	,,
244	Fiji	,,
245	Hong Kong	,,
246	Leeward Islands	,,
247	Grenada	,,
248	Gibraltar	,,
249	Gold Coast	,,
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues	,,
251	Solomon Islands	1897–98
252	Seychelles	1897
253	Labuan	,,
254	Ceylon	,,
255	Basutoland	1897–98
256	Newfoundland	1896–97
257	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1898
258	British New Guinea	1897–98
259	Bermuda	1898
260	West African Frontier Force...	1897–98
261	Jamaica	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 262.

BARBADOS.

BARBADOS, 1898.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 231.)

GOVERNOR SIR J. S. HAY to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,

26th May 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith six copies of the Annual Blue Book of the Colony, together with a copy of a letter from the Colonial Secretary covering his Report thereon, for the year 1898.

I have, &c.,

J. S. HAY.

Colonial Secretary's Office,

Barbados,

26th May 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to enclose my Report upon the Blue Book of the Colony of Barbados for the year 1898.

I have, &c.,

RALPH WILLIAMS,

Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency,
Sir J. S. Hay, K.C.M.G.

3076*—75—6/99 Wt 21935 D & S—5 (B)

BARBADOS, 1898.

BLUE BOOK REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1898.

I. FINANCIAL.

(*a.*) *Revenue and Expenditure.*

Revenue.—The total actual revenue of Barbados for the year 1898 was £182,682. The estimated revenue was £180,894. Thus actual revenue exceeded estimated revenue by £1,788.

The revenue for 1897 was £184,706. Thus the revenue for 1898 was less than the revenue for 1897 by £2,024.

A reference to the comparative statement of revenue will shew that very few points need comment, the evenness of receipts from the various sources of revenue in respect to 1898 and 1897 being very remarkable.

(1.) *Customs; Warehouse rent.*—The increase shewn of £184 is due to the greater storage of kerosine oil.

(7.) *Fees of Office* shew an increase of £349. The fees formerly received by the Prothonotary and forming part of his emoluments are now paid into the Treasury.

A full explanation of this point appears in this report under the head of the "Office of Colonial Secretary" in the remarks on the expenditure of that office.

(14.) *Interest* shews a decrease of £843. The interest received is annually less as the capital sum of Waterworks Loan is reduced by the expenditure of such Loan on the continued waterworks construction.

(15.) *Special Receipts.*—This decrease of £1,331 is due to several causes, (*a*) lesser receipts at Glendairy Prison for cooperage. The cooperage work hitherto carried on at Glendairy having been found unremunerative has been discontinued. (*b*) Lesser receipts from Dodd's reformatory for plantation products. (*c*) Receipt of a smaller amount in respect to estate duties.

The following are the receipts under the principal heads of revenue for the past five years :—

—	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
	£	£	£	£	£
Customs	94,244	82,529	104,191	106,880	106,709
Port and Harbour	4,234	3,239	3,787	4,235	3,972
Excise	29,422	25,666	27,461	32,226	32,461
Licences	6,473	6,012	5,569	5,622	5,385
Police Tax	3,619	3,603	3,880	3,893	4,050
Fees and Fines, and Fees of Office	5,624	4,671	5,547	5,111	5,297
Post Office	6,732	6,594	7,218	8,048	8,190
Miscellaneous	10,276	7,734	9,052	9,169	7,042
Waterworks	—	6,267	10,327	9,522	9,576
Totals	160,624	146,315	177,032	184,706	182,682
Temporary advance from Waterworks Loan Fund			8,500		
			185,532		

Expenditure.

The total actual expenditure of Barbados for the year 1898 was £185,840. The estimated expenditure was £180,284. Thus actual expenditure exceeded estimated expenditure by £5,556.

The expenditure for 1897 was £172,551. Thus the expenditure for 1898 exceeded the expenditure for 1897 by £13,289.

The following details in respect to the comparative expenditure of 1898 and 1897 will best explain this increase.

(2.) *Colonial Secretary's Department* shews a decrease of £598.

BARBADOS, 1898.

In order to make this matter clear I will associate with this head of expenditure No. 12 "Registration Office," and will quote verbatim from the Auditor General's report.

"It is explained with regard to the decrease of £598 in the Colonial Secretary's Department, and £960 (increase shewn) the cost of the Registration Office, which appears for the first time, that these two offices should for purposes of comparison with 1897 be taken together in 1898, inasmuch as, by the change which was effected on the 31st of December 1897, the Record Branch of the Colonial Secretary's Department was withdrawn from his supervision and erected into a separate office, known as the Registration Office, wherein are also performed the duties which until then were carried out under the Prothonotary, Clerk of the Crown and Registrar in Chancery, an officer whose emoluments consisted of a salary of £100 supplemented by fees. It has already been shewn under revenue, paragraph 13 of this report (Auditor General's report), that there was an increase of fees in this connexion of £349.

"£100, the salary of the Clerk of the Crown, is also saved, so that while there is an increase of expenditure, taking the Colonial Secretary's Office and the Registration Office together, of £362, the revenue is benefited otherwise to the extent of £449.

"There is thus a net gain to the Treasury of £87, notwithstanding an adjustment of fees to the advantage of the public."

(9.) *Public Market* shews an increase of £113. The increase here shewn is due to a greater consumption of, and partly in respect to higher charges for, gas and water.

(11.) *Lighthouses* shews an increase of £169 due to general repairs which were needed.

(12.) *Registration Office* shews an increase of £960 (*see* remarks on (2) Colonial Secretary's Department).

(13.) *Inland Revenue* shews a decrease of £152, due to the reduction of an officer.

(17.) *Prisons* shew a decrease of £235, mainly due to lesser purchases of cooperage material.

(23.) *Medical Departments* shew a decrease of £604, due mainly to saving in provisions for the lunatic asylum and lazaretto, and to smaller payments for guarding vessels in quarantine.

(25.) *Waterworks.*—This shews a heavy increase of £1,072 and is mainly due to repairs of water boats, as well as to a new boiler for the steamer "Florence."

In this connexion I am sorry to say that much of the money thus spent has been altogether lost consequent on damage sustained by the hurricane, the "Florence" having been so damaged as to be practically a dead loss.

(26.) *Pensions.*—The increase of £528 shewn is mainly due to pensions to the Prothonotary and to Dean Clarke, late of St. Michael's.

(27.) *Interest.*—The decrease in interest of £166 is due to the fact that only one month's interest was paid in 1898 on the loan of £8,500, which the revenue had borrowed in the year 1896 from waterworks funds and repaid on the 31st of January 1898.

(29.) *Miscellaneous.*—This heavy increase of £8,703 is principally due to the repayment by general revenue in January, 1898, of the loan of £8,500 made from waterworks to general revenue in 1896.

	£
Hurricane Relief Fund	1,486
Hurricane Repairs Fund... ...	1,985

Both the above items of expenditure were of an entirely extraordinary nature, and were incurred in respect to relief of distress and repairs to Government buildings in connexion with the hurricane of the 10th of September.

To summarise—

	£
Expenditure for 1898 was	185,840
Revenue for 1898 was	182,682
Shewing an excess of expenditure over revenue of	3,158

But inasmuch as I have shewn that £8,500 of old debt to waterworks was paid off, and that large sums had to be paid for extraordinary expenditure consequent on the hurricane, it will be seen that the Colony has paid its way fairly, and that its normal revenue is sufficient up to the present to meet its normal expenditure. I trust it may continue so.

The total expenditure for the last five years was as follows :—

1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
£	£	£	£	£
161,278	152,039	184,020	172,551	185,840

(1.) (*b*) *Taxation.*

No change in taxation has been made within the year 1898.

(*c*) *Assets and Liabilities.*

	£
Assets on the 31st of December 1898 amounted to	17,893
Liabilities amounted to	1,257
Shewing balance of Assets of	16,636

(*d*) *Public Debt.*

The public debt on the 31st of December 1898 was £414,000, being £375,000 for waterworks loan, and £39,000 for public works.

The increase of the loan on account of public works amounted to £4,850, which was borrowed during the year for the continuation of wharf wall work, and for the prospective purchase of a new dredger, under the authority of "The Public Works Loan Act, 1881."

The amounts to the credit of sinking funds on the same date were :—

	£
Waterworks Loan	13,374
Public Works Loan	17,803

(*e*) *Currency.*

English money is in general use and all Government accounts are kept in sterling.

The merchants and the public, as a rule, keep their accounts in American currency.

There is only one Bank, namely, a branch of the Colonial Bank, at which all Government accounts are kept.

(*f*) *Public Works.*

No new works were carried out.

The renewal of wharf walls was continued during the year, but no dredging was done.

The total expenditure, not including hurricane expenditure, amounted to £9,847.

The construction and extension of the waterworks system has been continued at a cost of £28,602 in 1898.

It is confidently hoped that the entire waterworks construction scheme will be completed in 1899, when Barbados will be supplied throughout with a complete water system.

(*g*) *Public Works—Hurricane.*

The sum of £1,987 appears as spent on repairs to public buildings damaged by the hurricane.

This amount was spent out of general revenue on the authority of two resolutions of the Legislature.

(*h*) *Pensions.*

The total amount of pensions paid to public officers since retiring amounted in 1898 to £3,653, as compared with £3,105 in 1897. The reasons for this increase have been dealt with under the general head of Expenditure.

There has been a further amount spent in 1898 amounting to £2,171, which is in respect to premiums on insurances effected by public officers, and in respect to payments into the Savings Bank on behalf of public officers, in the terms of the Pension Act, 1890; which Act was passed to change the existing system of pensions, and to substitute a system of insurance and compulsory thrift in lieu thereof.

I notice that previous reports have omitted these latter payments when dealing with the head of Pensions, but they should undoubtedly be dealt with as money paid in respect to pensions.

The total amount of pensions is therefore £5,824.

BARBADOS, 1898.

II. TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(*a*) IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Imports.

The total imports of the Colony in 1898 amounted to £1,058,885 (as compared with imports valued at £1,008,699 in 1897), of which £428,063 came from the United Kingdom, £205,232 from British Colonies, and £425,590 from Foreign Countries. Thus there is an increase of £50,186 in total value of imports.

Food stuffs shew a large increase.

Salted meats, bran, bread, coffee, corn meal, flour, grain, rice, and oilmeal shew an increase in value in the aggregate of £72,166.

Cement, machinery, manures, oats, lumber, and staves shew an aggregate increase of £30,784 ; while coal, cottons, iron and steel, leather, hoops, woollens, and goods manufactured shew an aggregate decrease of £50,738.

The following is a comparative table for the five years from 1894 to 1898 inclusive :—

Year.	Total.	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	Foreign Countries.
	£	£	£	£
1894 ...	1,279,335	507,534	227,514	544,287
1895 ...	956,921	391,434	184,154	381,333
1896 ...	1,048,887	467,649	181,644	399,594
1897 ...	1,008,699	474,622	182,829	351,248
1898 ...	1,058,885	428,063	205,232	425,590

By this table it will be seen that while the general volume of imports has, as I have said, been increased, the result is not entirely satisfactory, inasmuch as :—

	£
Imports from the United Kingdom shew a falling off as compared with 1897 of ...	46,559
Imports from British Colonies shew an increase compared with 1897 of	22,403
Imports from Foreign Countries shew an increase as compared with 1897 of ...	74,342

First with regard to the falling off of trade with the United Kingdom :—

The following articles from the United Kingdom shew an aggregate decrease in 1898 as compared with 1897 of, approximately, £60,000, namely :—Bacons and hams, books, coin (gold and silver), butter, carriages, chinaware, cottons, iron and steel, boats, woollens, coal, iron nails, leathers, spirits, and wood-hoops.

While the following shew an increase in 1898 as compared with 1897 amounting to £13,600, namely :—Cement, machinery, wines, manures, rice.

As against this aggregate falling off of trade with the United Kingdom, it is satisfactory to note the increase in trade with British Colonies of £22,403, which increase is mainly due to trade in lumber from British North America, and in rice from Calcutta.

The increase in trade with Foreign Countries amounting to £74,342 is due to the increasing tendency to get all supplies from the United States of America.

Exports.

The total value of exports in 1898 was £769,231, of which £542,483 was produce of the Colony, and £226,748 was British, Foreign, and other produce in transit and through bond, as compared in 1897 with a total value of exports of £736,162, of which £555,394 was produce of the Colony, and £180,768 was produce in transit and through bond.

Thus there was an increase in 1898 of the total value of exports amounting to £33,069, but a decrease of value in exportation of Barbadian Colony products amounting to £12,911.

The general increase in value of exports is satisfactory as indicating briskness in trade, but the falling off in value of our own Colonial produce, consequent on a lesser production of sugar and on low prices, is to be regretted, as it is by our local exports of sugar and molasses that the Colony lives.

It will be seen by the following analysis that the loss is due to sugar, rum, manjack, and some other products, there having been a gain on molasses, although the quantity of molasses exported was less.

BARBADOS, 1898.

Thus, to analyse—there were 52,009 tons of muscovado sugar exported in 1898 as compared with 56,397 tons exported in 1897; there were 1,566 tons of dry sugar exported in 1898 as compared with 2,203 tons of dry sugar in 1897.

	Tons.
The falling off of tonnage of muscovado sugar exported in 1898 being	4,388
The falling off of tonnage of dry sugar in 1898 being	637
Shewing a total falling off of tonnage of sugar in 1898 amounting to	5,025

The total value of muscovado sugar exported in 1898 was £416,072, as compared with a value in 1897 of £422,977, and the total value of dry sugar exported in 1898 was £18,792 as compared with £24,453 in 1897 :—

	£
Thus, there was a loss of value of muscovado sugar in 1898 as compared with 1897 amounting to	6,905
and—	
a loss of value of dry sugar in 1898 as compared with 1897 amounting to	5,661
or—	
a total loss of value in sugar in 1898 as compared with 1897 amounting to	12,566

But with molasses it was otherwise.

There were 34,123 puncheons of molasses exported in 1898 as compared with 37,432 in 1897, shewing a falling off of 3,309 puncheons in 1898 as compared with 1897 ;

But—	£
The value of molasses exported in 1898 was ...	92,416
While the value of molasses exported in 1897 was	86,094
Shewing a total gain in the value of molasses in 1898 of	6,322

Deduct this gain on molasses from the loss on sugar and we have as under .—

	£
Loss on sugar	12,566
Gain on molasses	6,322
and the result is a loss in connection with sugar and molasses of	6,244

	£
The total loss in Colonial produce having been shewn to be	12,911
and—	
deducting loss on aggregate of sugar and molasses of	6,244
we shew losses from other sources of local Colonial produce amounting to	6,667

The other items of Colonial exports, forming in the aggregate this decrease of £6,667, are principally manjack, manures, building lime, and goods manufactured (such as carpenters' work, potteries, &c.).

The balance is made up of various smaller items.

The following table shews the destination of the exports of the products of the Colony (now mainly sugar and molasses, although in former years rum was an important item) for five years from 1894 to 1898 both inclusive :—

Year.	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1894 ...	114,311	166,944	490,747	772,002
1895 ...	64,794	107,866	221,931	394,591
1896 ...	33,521	132,794	411,052	577,367
1897 ...	26,515	100,414	428,466	555,395
1898 ...	12,761	126,856	402,866	542,483

This shews that in 1898 a value of £12,761 was exported to the United Kingdom, a value of £126,856 to British Colonies, and a value of £402,866 to Foreign Countries.

It will be seen that the export to the United Kingdom is trifling ; that to British Colonies increasing, and that to Foreign Countries (*i.e.*, the United States) slightly decreasing.

The following table shews the total trade (import and export) with the United Kingdom, the British Colonies, and Foreign Countries from 1894 to 1898 inclusive :—

Table shewing Total Trade (Import and Export) with the United Kingdom, British Colonies, and Foreign Countries from 1894 to 1898.

Year.	With the United Kingdom.			With British Colonies.			With Foreign Countries.		
	Imports.	Exports.	To al.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1894	507,534	127,444	634,978	227,514	319,269	546,783	544,286	537,798	1,082,084
1895	391,435	69,760	461,195	184,153	262,991	447,144	381,332	254,547	635,879
1896	467,649	38,520	506,169	181,644	274,813	456,457	399,594	444,895	844,489
1897	474,622	33,972	508,594	182,829	231,839	414,668	351,248	470,352	821,600
1898	428,063	35,207	463,270	205,232	288,117	493,349	425,590	445,906	871,496

(*b.*) Mines, Manufactures, and Fisheries.

Mines.

The only mines at present working are those of the manjack or glance pitch, a bituminous substance which is being worked in various parts of the Colony.

The export of manjack in 1898 amounted to 1,160 tons as compared with 1,880 tons in 1897.

This falling off is, I believe, due to a flooding of some of the works consequent on the hurricane, but there are no laws compelling mining returns, and I have been unable to obtain any reliable information on the subject.

Manufactures.

There are eight rum distilleries at work in the Colony, distilling in the aggregate 268,485 gallons of rum, of an approximate value (exclusive of duty) of one shilling per gallon.

Nearly the whole of this rum is consumed in the Colony.

There is a sulphuric acid factory on a moderate scale in the parish of St. James, as to which I have no details.

There are two manure factories in Bridgetown, doing, I am informed, a good business.

There is one tobacco and cigar factory on a small scale.

There are two ice factories.

I will endeavour in another year to ascertain greater details on these points, but nothing is officially furnished to me, and it has not hitherto been the practice to include these matters in a Blue Book Report.

Fisheries.

There is a large flying fish and general fishing industry carried on solely by the poorer classes, in which approximately 250 boats are employed, giving a livelihood to approximately 1,250 people; but the whole of the fish taken are locally consumed.

There are two very small whale fishing industries, the joint exportation of which in 1898 amounted to 193 barrels of oil.

BARBADOS, 1898.

(c.) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL STATION.

The only agricultural industries are those for the production of sugar cane, and cereal and root crops for local consumption.

I am dealing with the question of the sugar industry in my "General" remarks.

The question of the Botanical Station also forms a part of my "General" remarks, as all botanical matters are closely connected with the Imperial Department of Agriculture, with which I have dealt in that part of my report.

(d.) LAND GRANTS, &C.

There are no land grants. The general value of the land is too fluctuating for it to be possible to deal with it in a few words. The question as a whole is treated in my "General" remarks.

(e.) SHIPPING.

The total number of vessels which entered and cleared during the year 1898 is shewn in the following table, which gives a comparison of 1898 and 1897 :—

Entered.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.	Tons.	Steam Vessels.	Tons.	Total Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
1897	812	92,760	376	576,507	1,188	669 267
1898	779	92,339	354	568,470	1,133	660,809

Cleared.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.	Tons.	Steam Vessels.	Tons.	Total Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
1897	819	90,188	376	576,507	1,195	666,695
1898	771	90,735	354	568,470	1,125	659,205

The above is the Customs return of vessels actually "Entered" and "Cleared," but as vessels have 24 hours given them before they need "enter" it happens that a far larger tonnage really visits Carlisle Bay than appears above.

The details of this will be found in the Harbour Master's return on page X 17 of the Blue Book, which shews a total arrival of 1,840 vessels with a total tonnage of 1,023,825 tons.

The following table gives a comparative statement of shipping entered and cleared for the last five years :—

Entered.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steam Vessels.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1894	850	118,913	337	495,928	1,187	614,841
1895	739	84,938	329	499,768	1,068	584,706
1896	798	89,430	354	542,119	1,152	631,549
1897	812	92,760	376	576,507	1,188	669,267
1898	779	92,339	354	568,470	1,133	660,809

Cleared.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steam Vessels.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1894	852	121,477	337	496,094	1,189	617,571
1895	736	84,777	330	500,418	1,066	585,195
1896	800	89,340	355	543,127	1,155	632,467
1897	819	90,188	376	576,507	1,195	666,695
1898	771	90,735	354	568,470	1,125	659,205

(3.) LEGISLATION.

Twenty-four Acts were passed in 1898, of which one was a consolidation of the Acts relating to Public Health. One Act, namely, that dated the 16th of December, to amend the Fire Brigade Act of 1891, was disallowed by the Secretary of State.

(4.) EDUCATION.

The total expenditure on education in 1898 was £16,360, as compared with £16,730 in 1897, of which £10,999 was spent on elementary education. In addition to the Government grant the Elementary School teachers collected £1,090 in school pence.

The schools consist of first grade, second grade, and elementary schools.

The first grade schools are Harrison College, The Lodge School, and Queen's College, the latter being for girls only.

The second grade schools are Combermere School, Coleridge School, Parry School, Alleyne School for boys, and the Alexandra School, and the Victoria School for girls only. At the end of 1898 there were 172 elementary schools.

The number of children on the roll of elementary schools in 1898 was 27,776, as compared with 28,757 in 1897; with an average attendance of 14,734 in 1898, as compared with 15,556 in 1897.

The falling off in the average attendance of 1898 is due to the greatly diminished attendance in the fourth quarter of the year, when school work was interrupted by the hurricane in all the elementary schools, and in some schools work was hardly resumed after the September vacation.

(5.) INSTITUTIONS.

(*a.*) & (*b.*) *Hospitals and Asylums.*

The General Hospital is subject to the General Hospital Act of 1890, and is under the control of a body of Directors of whom the Governor is *ex officio* one.

Although many members of this body are Directors in right of their appointments, it is not under the direct control of the Executive, nor are its officers and servants appointed by the Executive.

I am unable therefore to furnish any details of the working of the establishment from my personal knowledge as Colonial Secretary. The annual report of the Board is laid before the Legislature, and is published in the official gazette of the Colony.

The Lunatic Asylum is directly subject to the Executive.

It is a modern building of 1891, and is admirably managed by the Medical Superintendent, Dr. Field.

The Lazaretto is also directly under the Executive. It is an ill-constructed collection of houses of the bungalow character.

The Superintendent, Mr. Winter, does all that is possible, but new buildings are greatly needed, and the Institution can never be satisfactory until the present buildings are done away with and new ones erected.

The expenditure on the General Hospital, the Lunatic Asylum, and the Lazaretto for 1898 as compared with 1897 was as under :—

——	1898.	1897.
	£	£
General Hospital ...	6,999	7,002
Lunatic Asylum ...	5,129	5,401
Lazaretto	2,548	2,675

I append a statistical table for 1898 :—

——	Discharges.	Deaths.	Daily average.
General Hospital	3,537	281	211
Lunatic Asylum	39	50	336
Lazaretto	—	18	115

(*c.*) *Poor Houses.*

The poor houses are in no sense Government Institutions. They are under the direct control of the vestries. There are eleven in all, one in each parish.

I have, by the courtesy of the vestries, visited nearly all of them, and so far as the means at the disposal of the vestries allow, they seem to be well and carefully managed.

The St. Michael's poor house is a fine and well arranged building, and is admirably conducted.

The total expenditure on parochial institutions and poor relief in 1898, as taken from the Poor Law Inspector's report, was £17,274, as compared with £16,032 in 1897.

The admissions into the parochial institutions in 1898 were 3,029, as compared with 1,849 in 1897.

I see by reference to my report for 1897 that I quoted the figures then as being 1,755, but the figures as now given are correct.

(*d.*) *Reformatory.*

The cost of this institution in 1898 was £1,598, as compared with £1,666 in 1897.

The number of boys was 116 as compared with 121 in 1897.

Efforts are being made to get boys indentured to employers in other Colonies, but the prejudice felt against "Reformatory" boys has so far prevented any success in this direction.

(*e.*) *Savings Bank.*

The number of depositors on the 31st of December, 1898, was 12,859, having an aggregate sum of £220,831 to their credit, as compared with 12,278 depositors in 1897, having £213,984 to their credit.

The assets of the Savings Bank on the 31st of December, 1898, amounted to £234,410, consisting for the most part of investments in high class stock, but including investments to the amount of £9,774 in mortgages on landed property in Barbados.

The assets on the same date for 1897 amounted to £220,659.

The valuation of assets is here taken at the price paid and not at market price, which latter valuation would be considerably higher.

(6.) JUDICIAL STATISTICS

(*a.*) *Police.*

The subject of the police is dealt with in a special report by the Inspector, and it is not necessary to deal with it at length here.

The force consists of an inspector, a sub-inspector, two sergeant-majors, 12 sergeants, 24 corporals, and 315 constables.

The total cost of the force was as under in 1898 :—

	£
Salaries	17,572
Premiums under Pension Act	33
Pensions	1,073
Other expenditure	5,342
Giving a total of...	24,020

(*b.*) *Prisons.*

The total cost of Glendairy Prison in 1898 was £5,169, as compared with £5,404 in 1897.

The number of prisoners in 1898 was 3,538, as compared with 3,267 in 1897.

The estimated value of the labour of males is :—

	£
Outside	860
Inside	200
Inside, estimated savings on bakery	602
Being a total of...	1,662

	£
The estimated value of female labour is ...	162
Shewing a grand total of... ...	1,824

BARBADOS, 1898

(7.) VITAL STATISTICS.

(*a.*) *Population.*

The census for 1891 shewed a population as under :—

Whites.		Total Whites.	Coloured.		Total Coloured.	Total Population.
Male.	Female.		Male.	Female.		
7,339	8,274	15,613	73,766	92,927	166,693	182,306

My report for 1897 estimated the population to be about 190,000, and as a rule there is a regular increase in the population, but the following figures will shew that in 1898 the tendency was the other way.

The total number of registered births in 1898 was 7,159 (of which 3,226 were legitimate, and 3,933 illegitimate), *i.e.*, a birth rate of 37·67 per 1,000, as compared with a total of registered births in 1897 of 7,197, *i.e.*, a birth rate of 37·87 per 1,000.

It will thus be seen that there were 38 fewer births in 1898 than in 1897.

The total number of burials (there is no death registration) in 1898 was 7,415, *i.e.*, a death rate of 39·02 per 1,000, while the total number of burials in 1897 was 4,963, *i.e.*, a death rate of 26·12 per 1,000.

It will thus be seen that there were 2,452 more burials in 1898 than in 1897, while there were 256 more burials in 1898 than there were births in 1898.

The unusual condition of things shewn is mainly due to the effect of the hurricane.

It was pointed out at the time that the actual deaths by accident in no sense represented the true mortality consequent on that disaster. The terrible exposure both at the time and during the period following on the hurricane tried the vitality of all, and especially of the very old and the very young, and the consequence is seen in the disastrous figures here shewn.

I am informed by the Poor Law Inspector, Dr. Hutson, that there were a very unusual number of still-births during the fortnight following the hurricane.

(*b.*) *Public Health.*

Up to the 10th of September, the date of the hurricane, the health of the Island was excellent, and the Colony was free from any epidemic.

From the 10th of September to the end of the year dysentery and diarrhœa were generally prevalent, and in two parishes typhoid also.

(*c.*) *Sanitation.*

The sanitation of the Island is primarily controlled by the Central Board of Health, appointed by the Governor, which is given large powers under the Public Health Act. Practically the detailed working is carried out, in accordance with approved sanitary bye-laws, by local boards of each parish appointed by the vestries. Generally speaking the work is carefully carried out.

(*d.*) *Climate.*

The climate is as a rule very healthy; this is mainly due to the health-giving trade winds; the porous coral formation, the complete cultivation, and the entire absence of bush and swamp. It is also in large measure due to the very perfect Government water supply, which provides abundant pure drinking water to all classes.

(1.) *Rainfall.*—The total rainfall of 1898 as taken at the Botanical Station was 64·55 inches, with 205 wet days, as compared with 65·09 inches and 213 wet days in 1897.

(2.) The mean barometrical pressure was 29·919.

(3.) The mean temperature was 78·6.

(4.) The mean velocity of the wind was 9·0 miles an hour. The prevailing winds are the North East Trades.

From observations taken at the Botanical Station it appears that the wind was E. by S. for 97 days, E. by N. for 107 days, E. for 81 days, S.E. for 14 days, E.N.E. for 12 days, E.S.E. for 26 days, N.E. for 8 days, and the other days in other quarters.

(8.) (*a.*) POSTAL SERVICE.

The revenue of the Post Office in 1898 was £8,190, compared with a revenue in 1897 of £8,048.

The expenditure in 1898 was £9,712, as compared with an expenditure of £9,770 in 1897.

In 1898 expenditure exceeded revenue by £1,522.

This loss on the postal service is due to the great cost of conveyance of mails abroad. The Colony paid in 1898 to the General Post Office, London, and to the Post Offices of other countries a total sum of £4,157 in respect to conveyance of mails, of which £2,160 was paid in respect to the West India Mail Contract.

BARBADOS 1898.

The Colony adopted the penny postage on the 25th of December 1898, but the time was too short to judge what effect this may have on the postal revenue.

The sum of £21,142 was paid in the Colony on money orders from other British West India Islands.

This money was for the most part money sent by Barbadian labourers, working elsewhere, to their families in Barbados.

(*b.*) *Telegraph Service.*

There is no inland telegraph service.

The only cable company directly connecting with Barbados is the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, which company draws a subsidy from the Colony of £2,500 annually. The present contract terminates on the 31st of December 1899.

(*c.*) *Telephone Service.*

There is an excellent telephone service throughout the Island in the hands of a private company, with an approximate length of wire in use of 600 miles.

(9.) MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

Barbados is still a Military Station of the Empire, the garrison usually consisting of Headquarters and five Companies of a British Regiment, and of four Companies of a West India Regiment, the whole under the command of a Major-General, whose military command also includes St. Lucia.

It is now beyond doubt that the troops will, within the next three years, be removed to St. Lucia, where buildings are being erected to receive them.

The total amount paid in 1898 by the Imperial Government for the garrisons of Barbados and St. Lucia was £102,646, of which £51,996 was expended on the upkeep of troops in Barbados.

Much of this money was actually spent in Barbados, and the loss to the Colony on the removal of the troops will be severely felt.

(10.) FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

The number of friendly societies on the register as shewn in the Official Registrar's half yearly report on the 31st of December 1898 was 154, as compared with 152 in 1897. The Registrar

reports that much damage was done to the buildings of many of the societies by the hurricane of the 10th of September.

(11.) ECCLESIASTICAL.

The total cost of ecclesiastical establishments in 1898 was £11,379, which was allocated as follows :—

	£
Anglican Establishment	10,229
Wesleyan „	700
Moravian „	400
Roman Catholics	50
	11,379

During the year Dean Clarke of St. Michael's resigned after having held the Rectory of St. Michael's for fifty years, and was succeeded both in the Deanery and Rectory by Dean Phillips.

(12.) ESTABLISHMENTS.

During the absence of Governor Sir J. S. Hay on leave from the 29th of October to the 25th of December the Colonial Secretary, Mr. Ralph Williams, administered the Government. Mr. Greaves, the Attorney-General, acted as Colonial Secretary, and Mr. Goodman, the Solicitor-General, as Attorney-General.

Mr. H. S. Seon, one of the Police Magistrates of Bridgetown, retired on a pension.

Mr. M. J. Berkeley, Police Magistrate of District "D," was appointed to succeed him, and Mr. F. Stanley Smith, Barrister, was appointed to succeed Mr. Berkeley at District "D."

Mr. C. J. Lawrance, Inspector of Police, died of typhoid fever on the 13th of November, and Mr. Chancellor, Sub-inspector, acted for him during the remainder of the year, Mr. Mandeville acting for Mr. Chancellor.

By the death of Mr. Lawrance the Colony lost the services of a capable and zealous public officer, and the Governor of a useful adviser.

During the absence of Mr. E. T. Grannum, the Auditor General, on leave, Mr. Bailey, the Registrar, acted as Auditor General, Mr. W. Lindsay Haynes acting as Registrar. Mr. S. S. Phillips, of the Audit Office, acted as Governor of Glendairy Prison in January 1898.

(13.) COUNCILS AND ASSEMBLIES.

The personnel of the Legislative Council remains the same.

The House of Assembly was deprived of the services of its Speaker, by the murder of Mr. Archibald Pile, C.M.G.

Mr. Pile was the victim of a dastardly attack on a lonely road while driving from Bridgetown to his country house, and after a lingering illness died on the 2nd of September, to the universal sorrow of all classes.

By his death the Executive and the Legislature lost a most distinguished member, and the people a useful and honoured public servant.

Mr. Pile's place as Speaker of the Assembly was filled by the election of Mr F. J. Clarke as Speaker.

(14.) FOREIGN CONSULS.

The only changes are that Mr. N. E. Parravicino was appointed Consul for Austro-Hungary, and Consular Agent for Italy, and General Vicente Perez Leon was appointed Consul for Venezuela.

(15.) POLITICAL FRANCHISE.

The qualifications necessary for the franchise are detailed at length in the annual Blue Book (*see* page "L"). The total number of electors on the register was 1,922 as compared with 2,208 in 1897, and with 2,341 in 1896.

I am informed by the Revising Officer that the falling off in the number of electors is mainly due to increased carelessness on the part of qualified persons in neglecting to register themselves.

Depression in trade and business losses are also partly responsible for the falling off.

(16.) GENERAL REMARKS.

(*a.*) During the year 1898 the Colony had to cope with a great disaster, having, on Saturday the 10th of September, been visited by a severe hurricane.

It may safely be taken that no storm of equal severity has occurred in Barbados since the great hurricane of 1831.

About 18,000 labourers' huts were blown down.

Many plantation buildings used for the manufacture of sugar were destroyed, and much live stock was either killed or disabled; 85 persons were killed, and approximately 260 injured; 27 others are known to have been drowned in a local passenger boat.

Four barques were blown out to sea and all are known to have been lost, although the crews of three were saved, and several smaller vessels were lost.

Speaking generally, nearly every house received more or less damage, and the aggregate cost of repairs must have been enormous.

The two principal Government bridges in Bridgetown were so injured as to be rendered for the time, and until re-construction can be effected, practically useless, and Government property was destroyed to the extent not far short of £20,000, besides much movable private property being lost or damaged.

In addition to this, the sugar cane plants were so bent and broken by the hurricane, and the soil so scoured by the flood of water which followed, that it is feared that in many parts of the Island the canes have not recovered, and that the result will be a short crop, which, with the present narrow margin of existence left to the planter, promises to be a serious matter.

The actual aid given to Barbados was £18,000 from the Mansion House Fund, and £40,000 as a grant from the Imperial Government, as well as about £7,362 from other sources.

In addition to this, there is good reason to hope that £50,000 will be advanced to the Local Government by the Imperial Government for the purpose of granting loans to planters on easy terms for the restoration of buildings &c., on sugar estates.

Much criticism has been applied to the aid given to the Colony. On the one hand the public of England has been found fault with for being lacking in generosity in connexion with the Mansion House Fund, and on the other hand the Imperial Government has been taxed with undue liberality where it was neither needed nor deserved.

Neither of these representations is correct. Public subscription, supplemented by the most generous Imperial Grant, has sufficed to meet the occasion. The entire damage bill has not been paid, and there was no reason that it should be paid, but the aid given has sufficed to put a good shelter over the heads of all those most in need of it, to find food for the destitute, and generally to provide funds to enable the Colony to tide over its difficulties. It will also in a large measure enable some of the most pressing public works repairs to be carried out without trenching upon the depleted revenues of the Colony. In fine, money in sufficient, but not in excessive, amount has been promptly placed at the disposal of the Colony to meet its wants.

I have seen statements even in the greatest of the English journals dealing with the damage done by the hurricane, and with the methods employed in administering relief, in which both St. Vincent and Barbados are referred to.

BARBADOS, 1898.

It is not my place to speak of St. Vincent, although I know of the immense and most successful efforts made in that Colony. But of Barbados I can speak, and can most thoroughly testify to the ungrudging labour and most scrupulous care given by the Vestries, which were the distributing bodies (subject to the Executive) of all relief granted. It cannot but be that, in the tens of thousands of cases relieved, some unevenness occurred, but the best proof of the general contentment with the arrangements made has been the perfect order which has prevailed.

When it is realised that in the face of this great disaster, not one single case of organised disorder has occurred amidst a crowded population of nearly 200,000 souls, despite the utter financial depression of the Colony, it will be seen how quickly and how completely the local bodies carried out the extraordinary duties so suddenly imposed upon them.

The policy of the Government from the first has been to aid and not to pauperise. Where work was available, aid, except of an essentially temporary kind, was withheld, although in all cases shelter, first temporary and then permanent, was provided for the very poor.

The result has been satisfactory, and the Government is now in a position to say that, except as regards the probability of a short crop, and the repairs to Government property still to be carried out, the difficulties of the hurricane of 1898 have been disposed of.

(*b.*) The railway company, recently in liquidation, has changed hands, and the new company is making an effort to restore the permanent way and to replace the rolling stock.

A narrow gauge is taking the place of that hitherto in use, and smaller and lighter engines and carriages are being introduced.

An extension of the existing line is also under consideration.

I hope that the efforts now brought to bear upon the work by the new General Manager will result in a revival of the passenger and goods carrying industry, and that the railway may soon become lucrative to its owners and an aid to the resources of the Colony.

(*c.*) The question of emigration is one which is frequently placed before the Legislature, but so far without practical results.

The people will not emigrate. They will, from time to time, go away, but emigrate, in the large sense of the term, they will not, that is to say, in numbers sufficient to solve the population question.

Whether they would take advantage of it if an emigration bureau was established, and satisfactory arrangements made for settling numbers of families permanently on land granted to them

in other Islands, has yet to be proved; but I confess to much doubt whether anything short of absolute starvation will induce any emigration on a large scale.

The pressure brought about by the hurricane was considerable, but, with every effort, only a few hundred persons consented to go to British Guiana, and none to Trinidad.

It is often stated that the planters oppose emigration because by overcrowding they obtain cheap labour. This contention I do not believe; every sensible man knows the desirability of encouraging emigration, and is cognisant of the difficulties which must arise unless it is carried out. The failure is due to the temperament of the people, who, as a rule, prefer low wages and their own homes to higher wages and separation from their island.

There is a grave difficulty impending, unless the sugar industry improves, in respect to the future of the young men and young women of the better classes.

Government retrenchment has closed many avenues of work, and plantation economies have wiped out others. The sons and daughters of formerly well-to-do people have but slight provision to look to under the altered circumstances, and I view with considerable apprehension the future in their respect unless a revival of our industry takes place.

(*d.*) There is nothing, I think, in connexion with the Barbados labour market or rates of wages which can in any degree be a matter of interest to the Emigrants' Information Office.

Wages are extremely low, all labour is local and coloured, and there are no openings for white labour, or for any class of white emigrants, in any direction. The cost of living to those who are content with such things as fish, rice, and sweet potatoes, is very low. To those who want the usual European surroundings it is fairly moderate.

(*e.*) The important question of Central Factories is still practically undealt with.

There is a fairly general feeling that in the future the agricultural and manufacturing processes necessary to the raising of sugar must be in different hands.

The old methods are not suited to modern competition, and will have to go.

Several capitalists have made suggestions in the direction of factories, but nothing tangible has yet come of it.

The local feeling is that the promoter wants too large a share for his aid. The planter is in such straits that he would willingly accept an offer if he could see his way to do it without ruin.

In all cases the price suggested to him for his canes has been so low that he feels that he cannot accept it. As he works it

out, he actually gets more to-day than he would under the suggested improved conditions, so he has been compelled to refuse it. Because of this refusal, he is represented as a stiffnecked obstructionist, who will not take a good offer when it is made to him. This is not the case. The planters, who are represented on their agricultural bodies by intelligent and capable men, do most earnestly and fairly work out every scheme laid before them, but they are stopped, as I have said, by the one fact that, in their opinion, the canes cannot be produced in Barbados at the price offered by the promoters, and that ruin would follow the acceptance of such terms. The planters very rightly regard the schemes put forward by capitalists as being a pure matter of business, and in no sense philanthropic.

Promoters argue that the cultivation in Barbados is unduly costly, and that it can, and must be reduced; and in this, I think, they are probably right.

It is fair to state that the planters are fully sensible of their condition, most thoroughly appreciate the necessity of improved machinery, and are willing and anxious to fall in with any offer which will, in their opinion, enable them to remain on their estates and cultivate them with a fair prospect of a moderate return.

I have heard it stated that a local planter, aided by a considerable capitalist, is about to erect on a small scale, in time for the crop of 1900, the most modern machinery on his own estate, the machinery being capable of crushing, and designed to crush, not only his own canes, but also those of many of his neighbours; the situation of the plantation being in all respects favourable to the trial.

If this scheme is carried out, as I hope it may be, unfettered by liabilities and worked by independent capital, unhampered by mortgages, debts, and commission agencies, it would probably be a success. At all events, it would be an excellent test of the effect of modern methods.

If the crushing shewed better results, and the undertaking was not too costly, it would in all probability be the death blow of antiquated machinery.

It would, too, practically demonstrate the situation.

It would encourage other capitalists on a small scale to put down modern machinery, and would shew the planter what he could get and what he could afford to take for his canes. It would in point of fact shew who could hope to get his head above water again, and who was ruined beyond hope of salvation.

Properties would then have a chance of resuming their normal value (whatever that value might be), and the industry would at all events be on an assured basis.

This is of course assuming that foreign bounties will not be increased in proportion, and that the American Colonies cane

sugar industry does not induce the United States to penalise British Colony sugar. Either of these events would be a burden too heavy for our sorely stricken industry to struggle against.

(*f.*) A most important move was made in 1898 by the appointment of an Imperial Department of Agriculture in the West Indies with Dr. Morris C.M.G., late of Kew Gardens, at its head.

The whole expense is being borne by the Imperial Government; the object being to improve the class of canes used, to indicate better and cheaper methods for their cultivation, and, if possible, to encourage a more technical education bearing upon the industry by which so many of the West Indian Colonies live.

The department will also largely encourage the raising of articles other than sugar, where this may be profitably done, and will deal with the question of peasant proprietorships where it is to the interests of the Colonies that such methods should be introduced.

So far as Barbados is concerned, I think that it is generally admitted that sugar and sugar alone must be its staple commodity. It is therefore a vital necessity that the present doubt as to canes should be dispelled, and authoritative results demonstrated.

(*g.*) The question of peasant proprietorships need not trouble us in Barbados. The overwhelming population renders it in all respects undesirable. We have no unoccupied lands which it is necessary to bring into cultivation. The acreage of the land might yield barely sufficient to furnish the present population, as peasant proprietors, for a time with the bare necessaries of life, but it would leave no margin for the raising of products for exportation; and the result of any wide-spread movement in that direction would be to throw the Colony back centuries in civilisation.

(*h.*) Yet with all our difficulties we have paid our way, and so far our revenue has exceeded our expenditure.

Visitors to Barbados are struck with the busy aspect of the place. All is business, bustle, and stir, none of that dreary apathy of the people, or of melancholy grass-grown streets (so familiar a scene in some of the other islands), is apparent here.

One naturally asks where does the money come from?

In part perhaps it comes from the capital expenditure on waterworks; in part from the large military expenditure, but in the main it comes from the capital resources of the planters, from the last remaining values attaching to the land and its products.

Each year it is more difficult to get, but so far, each year it is got, and the land is still cultivated. But this, under present conditions, cannot last.

BARBADOS, 1898.

Under newer and better conditions it may not only last but be increased greatly in value, and I hope and think that those conditions are now not far off.

Unless cane sugar is to become extinct, driven out by beet, it seems impossible that this fertile Island, teeming with cheap labour, should be unable to compete.

I do not think the colonists of Barbados want charity, nor do they want exceptional treatment. All they ask is security for their industry and a reasonable prospect that, if they can once more attract capital to their Island and bring their production and manufacture into line with modern conditions, their efforts will not be rendered nugatory by a continued acceptance of a system which, while giving infinitesimal advantages to those at home, will ruin once and for ever, a most valuable branch of British industry abroad.

RALPH WILLIAMS,

Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Barbados,
26th May, 1899.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 255.

BASUTOLAND.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897-8.

(For Report for 1896-7, *see* No. 224.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
January, 1899.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.; and
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1899.

[C.—9046-23.] *Price* 3*d*.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
225	Jamaica	1896–97
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
227	Leeward Islands	1896
228	Bermuda	1897
229	Gambia	,,
230	Turks and Caicos Islands...	,,
231	Barbados	,,
232	Lagos	,,
233	St. Vincent	,,
234	Sierra Leone	,,
235	Falkland Islands	,,
236	Straits Settlements	,,
237	British New Guinea	1896–97
238	Bahamas	1897
239	St. Lucia	,,
240	St. Helena	,,
241	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
242	British Honduras	,,
243	Malta	,,
244	Fiji	,,
245	Hong Kong	,,
246	Leeward Islands	,,
247	Grenada	,,
248	Gibraltar	,,
249	Gold Coast	,,
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues	,,
251	British Solomon Islands	1897–98
252	Seychelles	1897
253	Labuan	,,
254	Ceylon	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica...	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 255.

BASUTOLAND.

(For Report for 1896–7 *see* No. 224.)

GOVERNOR SIR ALFRED MILNER to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,

Cape Town,

20th September 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit for your information a copy of a despatch from the Resident Commissioner of Basutoland enclosing the Annual Reports on the territory for the year ended 30th June last.

These reports do not appear to require much comment by me, more especially as the principal matters referred to, arising out of the conduct of Masupha, have already been dealt with in separate despatches.

The trade of Basutoland has been seriously affected during the year by drought, rinderpest, and internal disturbances; but it is satisfactory to find that in spite of these calamities the revenue collected has exceeded that of any previous year.

The harvest prospects of the coming year are not very encouraging, but I trust that the early break up of the drought which at present exists may prevent actual scarcity or distress.

I have, &c.,

A. MILNER,

Governor and High Commissioner.

831*—75—10/98 Wt 21935 D & S—5 (B)

BASUTOLAND 1897–8.

From the RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, Basutoland, to the HIGH COMMISSIONER, Cape Town.

Resident Commissioner's Office,

Basutoland,

5th August 1898.

SIR,

IN transmitting Your Excellency my report and enclosures for the year ended 30th June 1898, I have the honour to state that it has been politically eventful.

Whilst we were struggling hard against the ravages of rinderpest, and had scarcely emerged from the troubles which a section of the tribe, led by Lerothodi's sons, had brought upon the country by arousing superstitious fears concerning inoculation and other preventive measures, a serious disturbance, organised by Masupha, broke out in Berea district, involving the loss of six lives.

For many years these annual reports have revealed the story of vital opposition to the Paramount Chief Lerothodi headed by Masupha, an opposition always passive and sometimes dangerously active. He has sought every opportunity to dispute and impair the paramountcy, at times taking the initiative prominently, at other times supporting those who were put up to play the game. There is good reason to believe that the Berea disturbance was intended by Masupha as a prelude to something greater. Plans were laid for it. Certain chiefs like Maama were looked upon as active adherents ; others, whose power was material, as neutrals. But it failed of the development anticipated, for a reason characteristic of the Basuto which marks their discrimination and intelligence.

It is well known that the old chief Moshesh, having constructed the tribe, divided the inheritance amongst his four principal sons, *i.e.*, Letsie, Molapo, Masupha, and Majara. Majara died early, bequeathing his portion to his son Leshoboro. During the "Gun War" of 1880–1881, Masupha acquired prestige and power that enabled him to swallow up certain rights adjoining his own and to encroach at pleasure upon others. The rights of Majara during the minority of Leshoboro offered a fair field, which was taken advantage of. In 1885–1886 the late Paramount Chief Letsie was so incensed at these encroachments that he twice took the offensive with armies—once to protect and redetermine the rights of Ramanella, secondly in support of Leshoboro. My predecessor was associated with both these movements. The respective boundaries were pointed out and duly recorded. Masupha never recognised these settlements. His attitude year after year led to disturbance and conflicts.

In the disturbance under review, the immediate cause was an attempt by Leshoboro, with Lerothodi's moral support, to appropriate land properly awarded to him. This was resisted by Thebe, a restless son of Masupha. Leshoboro adopted questionable tactics in retaliation, sustained a reverse, and bloodshed ensued. Pursuing the constitutional course, I summoned the parties to Maseru for the purpose of dealing with the case in council. Masupha, relying upon the countenance of certain other chiefs disaffected towards Lerothodi, notably Jonathan and Maama, objected to attend the court or to allow his son Thebe to attend.

After exhausting all reasonable means of persuasion, during which process Lerothodi and a large body of chiefs and people were kept loitering at Maseru, I announced to Masupha that the court would sit immediately whether his son, whose presence was required, was present or not. Masupha appeared at once with his son. He came, however, in a demonstrative way, attended by a large body of men whose weapons were, according to later intelligence, concealed beneath their blankets. The case proceeded. The combatant chiefs Thebe and Leshoboro were each found at fault for the bloodshed, were fined, and the boundary records were read out and affirmed in open pitso. Masupha then indulged in angry recrimination with Lerothodi, whom he treated defiantly, and the pitso broke up in some confusion after angry passions had been aroused. The fines were duly paid.

There is no doubt that Masupha calculated upon being able to command such tribal sympathy as would fortify him in resisting the attendance of his son at court, as well as compliance with any order, boundary delimitation, or settlement, not congenial to his own ideas, with which Lerothodi was connected. But the sense of the large tribal council associated with me was emphatic. They refused to aid or encourage Masupha in any action directed against previous judicial settlements. Seeing this, he submitted sullenly to my decisions, at the same time venting his spleen against Lerothodi in no measured language.

Subsequently, Lerothodi, with my approval, supported Leshoboro whilst the latter ploughed the fields he was entitled to, though it entailed the presence in reserve of 1,500 armed men. This occurred in August 1897. It will be seen that the evil day of open opposition on Masupha's part was foreshadowed and only postponed.

Early in December, a junior son of Masupha, named Moiketsi, followed into the Orange Free State a Mosutu woman who had run away from her husband with another man, and, on failing to secure their return to Basutoland quietly, adopted forcible measures of a rough and ready nature, in the execution of which he was apprehended by the Free State authorities, tried, and sentenced there with a band of followers to lashes and imprisonment. He escaped from lawful custody (whether through

BASUTOLAND 1897–8.

carelessness of guards or what) together with another criminal named Maboka, and fled successfully to Basutoland. The Orange Free State applied for extradition. As an escaped convict, Moiketsi might have been liable to surrender under a protocol to the Extradition Treaty signed by the High Commissioner and Acting President of the Orange Free State. But this protocol remained unratified by the Orange Free State Volksraad, and had become for all reciprocal purposes inoperative. His surrender as a convict was therefore refused, and the fact of his being domiciled in Basutoland precluded his surrender, under the provisions of the Treaty regarding domicile, upon any other charge. The other refugee was extraditable upon its appearing that his domicile was the Orange Free State.

The usual course was pursued of sending to Masupha for the arrest of his son, whom it was necessary to place upon trial for prison breaking, under a clause of our regulations providing that "any person domiciled in Basutoland who shall commit any offence in any place out of Basutoland may be dealt with in like manner as if such offence had been committed in Basutoland."

Had Masupha complied the affair would have been a minor one. This was explained to him. He knew it; but he again relied upon the sympathy of other chiefs in what he deemed to be a more popular resistance to authority, and, scenting in Lerothodi's remonstrances a chance of rupture with that chief, refused compliance.

Again recourse was had to all reasonable persuasion but without success. Finally, I had no alternative but, with Your Excellency's sanction, to call upon the Paramount, whose privilege it is to assert in the tribe the authority of the law when directed to do so, and whose prayer it had been to be allowed to do so without foreign help. Lerothodi, who had previously done his best to guide matters into a working channel, responded loyally by calling out his people and assembling them near Thaba Bosigo, were Masupha resided. Before taking any positive action he appealed to the latter through the agency of weighty councillors. Masupha responded by gathering his clans and sympathisers, and retiring to a stronghold overlooking his village adjacent to the Putyatsana river.

It was now clear that armed resistance was intended. The Paramount Chief, who feared the defection of Jonathan and some of his brothers, collected his full strength, anticipating a keen struggle for the supremacy which had been so often threatened. He had acted rightly so far, and I gave him every encouragement and moral support.

At this juncture Masupha, seeing the drift of things, handed over the convict Maboka, saying that was all he intended to do, his idea being that by doing so he would deflect the course of events. The refugee was brought to Maseru on December 30th

and placed in gaol. Simultaneously, Jonathan Molapo, who with a large force had given Masupha confidence while affecting to support Lerothodi, suddenly went home, leaving all parties compromised equally by his presence and retirement. He had neither helped Masupha nor Lerothodi materially, and taught both to mistrust him. He had erred by stultifying his professions in support of law and order, and had unguardedly given hope of help to those in revolt. He had tried to run with the hare and hunt with the hounds—a course in which his betters have failed, and he too in recent times.

On January 3rd Lerothodi made his first demonstrative movement by marching in strength through a part of Masupha's country to the north of Thaba Bosigo.

No serious opposition was offered. On the 7th he occupied Masupha's deserted village and, on advancing towards the latter's stronghold, was fired upon. A general action ensued. Lerothodi lost three killed and five wounded. The first shots were fired by Masupha.

Being now certain that the Paramount Chief had lent himself genuinely to the duty entrusted to him I aided him with a limited amount of ammunition.

Hostilities proceeded. A cordon was gradually drawn round Masupha's stronghold, his supplies and water cut off. The siege was protracted by reason of the inaccessibility of the stronghold, of swollen rivers which prevented communications, and of procrastinating overtures from Masupha. During this period, the number of killed were—on the side of Lerothodi, who attacked in the open, 31 ; on the side of Masupha, who was mostly behind walls, 24.

On the 17th January Moiketsi was surrendered and brought into Maseru personally by Lerothodi, who was informed that the evacuation of the stronghold by Masupha and the destruction of his late village were regarded as essential conditions of that chief's capitulation. Swollen rivers again delayed matters.

On the 27th January I sent an officer with Lerothodi to see if the conditions were carried out. This officer, Mr. C. Griffith, returned on the 29th January, reporting the destruction of the village and evacuation of the stronghold.

On the 1st February a court was held, my native assessors being almost the entire roll of chiefs and councillors of the nation. Moiketsi was sentenced to 14 months imprisonment. Masupha was deprived of the district chieftainship which had conferred authority over other than his own family. He was forbidden to re-occupy his old village, was fined 200 head of cattle or equivalent, and deprived of certain lands and tenements he had by courtesy enjoyed for many years.

The fine was paid and other orders carried out. A few attempts to evade them met with unconditional negatives by Government and the Paramount Chief.

BASUTOLAND 1897–8.

In chronicling these unhappy events it is to be hoped that good may come out of evil. It was impossible that the system of working through a paramount chief could continue satisfactorily, if the balance of national power was not visibly on his side.

Masupha had courted this balance for years and in the final struggle staked all he knew on it. But he failed, and Lerothodi, for the first time, enjoyed the chieftainship he inherited.

Taken altogether it may be considered that the sense of the nation moved more rapidly than, according to precedent, might have been expected. It has rarely happened that the majority have been led to perceive in time the necessity of coercing a recalcitrant minority, or, having perceived it, have followed it up. Matters must, in order to enter the soul of a tribe, go through the process of circumfusion.

The distances and difficulties of propagation are great. Any electric conception of ideas is as much beyond the compass of their minds as it is beyond the compass of conveyance. Were natives indeed capable of rapid understanding they need not be in their present subordination to civilized thought and government. A sudden ultimatum is calculated to have the effect that shock has upon keener nerves, and to produce the paralysis of desperation that leads to wrong impulses.

While advancing these remarks as a plea for patience in critical dealings with natives, I must gratefully record how much the exercise of patience was fortified by the strength derived from Your Excellency's resolution should all reasonable efforts at adjustment fail. It was no less a strength to me than a manifestation to the natives, who began perhaps to realize for the first time in recent years that constitutional orders would be carried out by force if persuasion failed, and that the advice of the Queen's representative was intended to be obeyed.

For years the Basuto have quarrelled with each other, as they naturally always must do. They have, however, seriously at times disturbed the peace, have been warned that, in view of liability to complications, it could not be tolerated by Her Majesty's Government, and have treated such warnings with composure. They ought now to have learned that such warnings have a meaning.

Whatever advantage may result from late events—and from every point of view the firmer establishment of the Paramount Chief must, with its alternative evils, be deemed of advantage—is therefore due to Your Excellency's determination to insist upon respect for law and order, and to support the Paramount Chief in all constitutional ways. This was the determining factor. It enabled me to give the Paramount the assurance and confidence he required and eventually believed in.

There has been no change in the policy by which the Basuto enjoy a fair measure of self government under certain restrictions. But there has been a change in which Her Majesty's Government has brought home the necessity of taking up its obligations.

Allusion was made in the previous paragraph to certain alternative evils. By this may be understood that the firmer establishment of the Paramount Chief and the tribal power it confers upon him and his sons are elements that have to be reckoned with in future. The predominating power of Lerothodi's family, some of whom are none too wise, cannot be deliberately counterbalanced. Like all native chiefs he and they may soon forget from whom his real power was derived, and may be expected to give the trouble that a shrewder logic would avoid.

Apart from the principal incidents above mentioned there were the usual number of tribal disputes that required treatment, in which the factions submitted themselves happily to quiet settlements by the magistrates or by appeals.

The subject of rinderpest occupied a large portion of last year's report. The disease ran its deadly course through the country, yielding fairly to gall inoculation where accepted, and proving fatal where superstitious objection to it prevailed.

Though we were led to believe that gall immunity would only extend to a few months, the more permanent value of it is so far established, as regards Basutoland, by the fact that there has been no recrudescence of the epidemic for 18 months.

The most attractive feature of the year, which will be marked as an historical landmark, was the visit and enthusiastic reception of Your Excellency in the territory. This visit was regarded from its length and thoroughness as one of great import, inasmuch as the High Commissioner was known not only to have seen the masses and the country, but was seen of many who knew of him only as the emblem of unseen power.

It is almost impossible to indicate from year to year any specific national progress. Individuals display it; there is a demand for technical education, and many natives are to be seen working throughout the country at useful trades which a few years ago only trained white men were capable of.

Lurking behind the veneer of civilization, which consists in a great measure of wearing smart European clothes, there is, of course, deeply rooted superstition that will take generations to eradicate. Reference to the records of a dozen years ago reveal a marked change in the demeanour of chiefs and people generally. Their characteristic energy and desire to become wage earners is illustrated by the returns of passes issued during the 12 months to those in search of foreign labour, which give the number of 30,274 men. This represents more than three-fifths of the male population. Many who go to the mining centres

BASUTOLAND 1897–8.

become handy workmen. At the same time they contract the vices easily acquired from contact with low whites, and learn readily such civilized accomplishments as clever house-breaking and the like. This must be expected.

In co-operating for the suppression of crime and facilitating the ends of justice the chiefs have as a rule behaved well. Though conforming to the regulations, they contravene them by stealthy introduction of liquor and guns whenever they can evade police patrols, which is possible enough along an open 200 mile boundary. So long as an unprincipled class of low whites tempt them by carrying on such trade over the border it is hard to stop it, and harder still to secure convictions, to defeat which both buyers and sellers combine. The borders of all native territories are infested with illicit dealers whose professions offer high profits.

The season's crops were, owing to drought, miserable on the whole. Leribe district alone produced a marketable quantity. In other districts there is scarcity of food which may develop into want if we do not have a good and early spring.

Wheat, which of late years formed a great trade commodity, entirely failed, many having lost even their seed reserve. To remedy this a public spirited movement by the Chamber of Commerce to supply seed met with the hearty co-operation of Government, the result being that over 6,000 bags have been distributed on the easiest practicable terms.

In consequence of the failure of crops, trade suffered materially, as the statistics will show, and the Customs duties fell off proportionately.

It remains to be seen whether the new tariff, if it comes into operation, will sensibly affect Basutoland.

Crime statistics compare favourably with other years. The loss of cattle by rinderpest has probably conduced to more stealing than formerly. Otherwise serious crime is not conspicuous.

Culpable homicides spring rather from undue beer drinking than from malice.

The native police continue to do their work well.

Hospital work, as recorded in the reports of medical officers, is well maintained. The doctors would all be encouraged were it practicable to give them a higher standard of buildings, appliances, and nurses.

The general revenue is in excess of any previous year. Hut tax was well paid, continuing its upward tendency in proportion to the rise of population. Masupha failed in many ways last year. His tax was worse than usual. As a last resource it was necessary to send appointed messengers with the Paramount Chief and collect it summarily in Berea district. This was successful.

Education under the hand of the various Mission Societies progresses favourably. There is no undue attempt to reach unnecessarily high standards, but rather to keep the teaching within useful limits. It is proposed, with Your Excellency's approval, to have an examination of the principal schools by an Inspector kindly lent by the Cape Government.

Missionary enterprise, encompassed as it is by difficulties and re-action, is nevertheless a prominent feature of the country, the French Protestant Society being, as heretofore, highly conspicuous.

I beg to bear hearty testimony to the good service rendered by the Government Secretary and officers of the administration as a body. Their *esprit de corps* and desire to promote the best interests of the country are as commendable as they are valuable.

I have, &c.,

G. Y. LAGDEN,
Resident Commissioner.

His Excellency the High Commissioner, &c.,
South Africa.

ENCLOSURES.

	PAGE.
Report of Government Secretary	12
„ „ Assistant Commissioner, Leribe	19
„ „ Officer in Charge, Butha Buthe	23
„ „ Assistant Commissioner, Berea	26
„ „ Assistant Commissioner, Maseru	30
„ „ Assistant Commissioner, Mafeteng	33
„ „ Assistant Commissioner, Mohale's Hoek ...	35
„ „ Assistant Commissioner, Quthing	40
„ „ Assistant Commissioner, Qacha's Nek ...	42
„ „ Principal Medical Officer	45
„ „ Medical Officer, Leribe	48
„ „ Medical Officer, Mafeteng	50
„ „ Medical Officer, Mohale's Hoek	51
„ „ Medical Officer, Quthing	53

BASUTOLAND 1897–8.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARY, BASUTOLAND, FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 1898.

FINANCE.

The revenue collected in Basutoland during the past year is as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Colonial contribution ...	18,000	0	0
Hut Tax	23,438	10	0
Post Office	1,619	17	2
Licences	1,506	0	0
Fines	589	8	8
Ferry Tolls	224	3	3
Fees of Court	118	2	10
Miscellaneous	1,059	5	7
Total ...	£46,555	7	6

Of the Hut Tax paid, the amount of £1,267 10*s.* was arrear tax paid by defaulters of previous years. At each collection there are a number of men absent from their homes at the various labour centres and other places. The amount of tax paid for the current year was £22,171, as against £21,750 collected during the previous financial year.

Tax has been paid on 45,236 huts.

A refund to the Cape Government of £1,757 16*s.* 8*d.* has been made. The amount actually contributed by the Cape Government towards Basutoland expenditure therefore stands as follows :—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Drafts paid to Basutoland Government ...				18,000	0	0
Customs Dues on Imports to Basutoland	10,699	19	6			
Refund ...	1,757	16	8			
				12,457	16	2
Net amount of Colonial contribution ...				£5,542	3	10

The total expenditure during the year under report was £44,797 10*s.* 10*d.* This includes the large and abnormal expenditure of £1,375 on rinderpest, and, as Public Works, the cost of a new and commodious gaol at Mafeteng, and a new water supply for Maseru, which promises to meet in a satisfactory manner a much felt public need.

TRADE.

The amount of dutiable goods imported into Basutoland during the year ended 31st March 1898, was—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
From Cape Colony	48,696	0	0
From Orange Free State ...	51,584	0	0
Total ...	£100,280	0	0

The imports of the previous year ended 31st March 1897 amounted to £135,560. It was only to be expected that rinderpest, drought, and internal disturbances would have this effect upon the trade of the country. The Customs Dues credited to Basutoland, (being 85 per cent. of the total duties upon the above Imports) were:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
By Cape Colony	5,269	12	7
By Orange Free State ...	5,430	6	11
Total ...	£10,699	19	6

The Customs earnings have suffered by the operation of the tariff which came into operation on 1st July 1897, under which the ad valorem rate on imported goods was reduced from 12 to 9 per cent. On the other hand, the proposed new tariff, when in operation, may be expected to add considerably to the amount to be credited to Basutoland, woollen and cotton manufactures (upon which the new rate of 20 per cent. is to be imposed) constituting a large proportion of the Basutoland imports.

The following is a comparative return of exports from Basutoland for the year ending 31st December 1895, and for the years ended 30th June 1897 and 30th June 1898. The returns for the two latter years have been compiled for the period covered by our financial year for the purpose of uniform comparison with revenue and other returns.

Articles.	Year ended 31st December 1895.		Year ended 30th June 1897.		Year ended 30th June 1898.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Muids.	£ s. d.	Muids.	£ s. d.	Muids.	£ s. d.
Wheat	151,077	74,475 4 0	58,951	52,599 7 6	19,984	17,450 4 7
Mealies	82,429	33,857 9 8	64,576	12,424 11 0	99,352	52,590 14 3
K. Corn	3,681	1,675 14 6	4,746	4,273 13 3	14,739	8,760 6 0
Meal	4,037	4,529 0 0	1,060	1,663 12 6	1,876	2,813 11 0
Mealie Meal	1,361	832 14 0	40	44 0 0	17	13 0 0
Wool	Lbs. 1,116,999	15,988 0 2	Lbs. 854,879	10,234 0 2	Lbs. 1,992,131	24,989 15 4
Mohair	83,657	3,499 7 2	72,672	2,567 2 2	128,067	4,448 2 2
Cattle	427	1,348 5 6	227	932 5 0	711	3,959 1 0
Horses	409	1,964 19 6	1,336	9,892 19 6	1,986	12,628 12 0
Miscellaneous	—	1,325 1 5	—	279 11 10	—	10,846 0 5
Total	—	139,495 15 11	—	124,911 2 11	—	138,499 6 9

The miscellaneous exports for the last year, amounting to £10,846 0*s.* 5*d.*, consisted principally of hides, a testimony as to the mortality that has taken place among the cattle.

The diminished export of wheat during the past two years is remarkable. The severe drought of last year caused the loss of most of the wheat sown in the spring, and it has been necessary to supplement by Government aid the praiseworthy efforts of the mercantile community to supply the Basuto with seed wheat for the coming year.

Consequent upon the loss of most of the ploughing cattle by rinderpest, it was advisable to encourage the Basuto to use their horses for agricultural work. A number of sets of simple horse harness adapted for this purpose were distributed on loan throughout the country, and the natives have eagerly availed themselves of the privilege, and have thereby been induced to adopt horse ploughing to a considerable extent.

In response to a request, the Director of the Bacteriological Institute at Grahamstown was good enough to supply a quantity of fungus for locust destruction, and whether from this treatment or from the severe cold of the winter, the large swarms of "voetgangers" that were threatening the country have almost entirely disappeared.

Licences to trade were granted to 141 general traders and 74 hawkers. Seventy-five free licences were issued to burghers of the Orange Free State and others for the purpose of permitting them to barter produce and purchase grain for food.

METEOROLOGICAL.

The following are the results of observations carried on at the different stations in the country for the calendar year 1897 :—

Average rainfall	22·23	
Daily range of temperature ...	48	(approximate)
Minimum registered	18	
Maximum registered	99	

LABOUR.

The country has been visited by a number of labour agents employed in recruiting for the various companies at the gold fields. The Basuto, however, appear to prefer, as a rule, to make their own way to Johannesburg, and to engage themselves to employers without the intervention of agents.

Comparative Return of Passes Issued.

——	1895–96.	1896–97.	1897–98.
Labour	28,115	11,778	30,274
Other purposes	41,286	19,521	45,516
Total	69,401	31,299	75,790

POLICE AND CRIME.

The Basutoland Mounted Police consists of—

European officers	10
European constables	8
Native officers	6
Native sergeants	7
Native corporals	9
Native privates	204

who, in addition to much political employment, have done the following police duties :—

Number of patrols	1,085
Estimated distance travelled ...	51,009 miles.
Arrests under Pass Law	129
Arrests under Liquor Law ...	47
Arrests for other offences	60

Return of Criminal Convictions.

Assault	8
Customs Regulations, (breaches of) ...	8
Contempt of court	1
Culpable homicide	10
Escape from custody	5
Fraud	1
Firearms (smuggling)	7
Housebreaking	7
Liquor Laws, (breaches of)	42
Carried forward ...	89

Brought forward ...	89
Pass Laws (breaches of)	109
Public violence	3
Resisting police	13
Rape	1
Minor offences	32
Theft	61
Total ...	308
Civil cases heard	37

No floggings were inflicted in Basutoland during the year. 230 prisoners were received into gaol, and 91 remained in gaol on the 30th June 1898.

Return of Lost Stock Reported.

Stock.	Reported lost.	Definitely traced to Basutoland.	Not so traced.	Recovered.	Not recovered.
Horses	76	40	36	43	33
Cattle	58	35	23	34	24
Sheep and goats	1,188	34	1,154	34	1,154

In some cases the stock reported as lost, but not traced into Basutoland, has been subsequently reported as recovered in neighbouring territories.

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPHIC.

The Postal Revenue for the year was £1,619 17*s.* 2*d.*

The following figures are extracted from records kept and from returns for the year furnished by the courtesy of the Postmaster General, Cape Town :—

Letters posted in Basutoland ...	150,875
Post cards	4,137
Newspapers	25,800
Book and sample packets	8,009
Parcels	2,456
Total ...	191,277

BASUTOLAND 1897–8

Letters received	138,708
Post cards „	4,347
Newspapers	53,575
Book and sample packets	14,028
Parcels	5,376
Total ...	216,034

	£	s.	d.
Money Orders issued	7,307	16	5
Money Orders paid	4,383	19	1
Deposits in savings bank ...	1,443	4	11
Withdrawals „ ...	564	17	3

Telegraph messages sent (Maseru and Mafeteng) ...	5,059
Telegraph messages received ...	4,374

I have the honour to submit the Reports of the following officers :—

The Assistant Commissioner, Leribe.
The Officer in Charge, Butha Buthe.
The Medical Officer, Leribe.
The Assistant Commissioner, Berea.
The Assistant Commissioner, Maseru.
The Principal Medical Officer, Maseru.
The Assistant Commissioner, Mafeteng.
The Medical Officer, Mafeteng.
The Assistant Commissioner, Mohale's Hoek.
The Medical Officer, Mohale's Hoek.
The Assistant Commissioner, Quthing.
The Medical Officer, Quthing.
The Acting Assistant Commissioner, Qacha's Nek.

H. C. SLOLEY,
Government Secretary.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1897-8.—LERIBE DISTRICT.

The past year has been an eventful one for this district owing to the Masupha disturbance in January.

The chief Jonathan was then called out by the Paramount Chief to assist in vindicating the authority of the law. He went, but at a critical moment returned home leaving the work incomplete, and by his defection aggravated the trouble, as no doubt thereby he indirectly encouraged Masupha in his resistance. The Paramount Chief showed his very natural resentment in the usual native way. Threatening letters and messages were sent by him to Jonathan, and orders were sent to Jonathan's younger brothers and other minor chiefs in his district to disregard his authority, and report their matters direct to the Paramount Chief. Rumours were industriously circulated to the effect that Jonathan intended to help Masupha, and certain chiefs in this district, disaffected to Jonathan, excused themselves from helping Lerothodi by saying that if they did Jonathan would fall upon them. These rumours and excuses I knew to be quite without foundation, and indeed the sequel showed them to be so. Jonathan deserted the Paramount Chief when he had great need of him in the Government Service, and therein he was very blameworthy, but his fault ended there. He gave many excuses for his defection, but the true reasons were probably a sort of sentimental veneration for Masupha, who is his father-in-law as well as his uncle, and distrust of Lerothodi caused by unredressed grievances, the principal ones being probably the cattle post questions which have been alluded to in Leribe Annual Reports for several years by my predecessors and by me, and which are still unredressed.

In March, Jonathan sent humble messages of apology to Lerothodi, in which he confessed his fault, and, so to speak, threw himself on the mercy of the court, and the very light fine of ten head of cattle was inflicted upon him by Lerothodi. The fine was paid, and accepted in professedly final settlement of the matter. The intriguing, however, still continued, and towards the end of May it took an alarming shape. There is in this district a small chief called Motsweni. He is the eldest son of Jonathan's eldest brother Joseph who, owing to his being a lunatic, has never been in a position of authority.

Motsweni, therefore, by his birth should be chief of Leribe, and I believe was in his infancy indicated by Moshesh as the future Paramount Chief of Basutoland. His character, however, is such as to render him quite impossible for the position, and this was fully recognised by the late chiefs Letsie and Molaypo.

Without being absolutely mad like his father he is very weak-minded. In his normal condition he can speak and act reasonably enough, but if he is in the slightest degree checked, or if anything is said or done that he does not like, he at once loses all control over himself.

To this man Lerothodi addressed a letter harmless enough in itself, if rather injudicious, considering to whom it was addressed, instructing him to stand between Jonathan and anyone whom he was oppressing, and inform him and the court about it.

On the strength of this letter, Mǫtsweni gathered all the malcontents in the district around him, who, of course, were quite ready to use him for their own purposes, and proclaimed himself chief over Leribe. A dangerous cabal was formed and reports of their doings, no doubt in many cases exaggerated, caused grave anxiety in the district, and might very well have led Jonathan into committing himself with Government by taking up arms. This no doubt was just what those who started these intrigues wanted, but I am happy to say that, acting on my advice, he kept quiet, and, though very much provoked, contented himself with reporting matters and rumours to me as they occurred or came to his knowledge.

Finally, Lerothodi and Jonathan were called together by the Resident Commissioner and a *modus vivendi* arrived at between them. Jonathan wants to place out his son Tau, and in this he requires Lerothodi's support; indeed he cannot do without it. I hope he is wise enough to see this.

An understanding having been arrived at between Lerothodi and Jonathan, I was able to bring about the collapse of the local conspiracy by securing the withdrawal of Joel and Khetisa from it, so that the outlook for next year is considerably better than it was.

Affairs at Makhoakhoeng are in much the same state as they were last year, the cause being probably that Lerothodi and Jonathan have never been in accord. It is Lerothodi's way of showing Jonathan that he cannot do without him.

One case of "eating up" by chief Tlasoa was brought to my notice. I called him before me, and on his failing to show sufficient cause for his action I ordered restitution to be made, which has now taken place.

I attach a return of revenue in this district. The Hut Tax was paid well, and shows an increase on last year.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Hut Tax	5,625	0	0
Licences	457	0	0
Fines	99	11	6
Fees of court	4	16	6
Miscellaneous	128	1	3
Total ...	£6,314	9	3

The amount of arrear Hut Tax collected is £234 10*s*. Tax has been paid on 10,936 huts.

There are forty-three licensed general traders in the district. Forty-one hawkers' licences have been issued, of which twelve were free.

I append a return showing the results of action taken in the matter of tracing and recovering lost stock.

Description.	Reported.	Traced.	Not traced.	Re-covered.	Not re-covered.
Horses	21	19	2	19	2
Cattle	13	11	2	10	2
Sheep	3	3	—	3	—

It will be noted that in every case except one where stock has been traced to Basutoland it has been recovered. The exception was a case in which a stolen cow had been slaughtered by the thief.

The following is a list of cases tried in my court :—

Civil actions	9
Theft	16
Housebreaking	3
Infanticide	1
Homicide	3
Fraud	1
Escape	1
Resisting police	11
Contravening Pass Law	67
Contravening Customs Regulations ...	3
Contravening Liquor Regulations ...	6
Contravening Law relating to Firearms	6

The harvest was scanty, but, still, in this district there was a crop, and I do not anticipate any famine. Indeed, grain in considerable quantities is being exported to the districts where crops have entirely failed.

BASUTOLAND 1897–8.

The following is a list of prices paid for produce :—

Wheat ...	...	...	25*s.* per bag.
Mealies ...	...	...	12*s.* „
Kafir corn	...	...	14*s.* „
Ponies ...	...	...	£4 to £10 each.
Cattle ...	...	...	£3 to £7 „
Sheep ...	...	...	15*s.* to 20*s.* „
Goats ...	...	...	10*s.* to 20*s.* „
Wool ...	...	...	3*d.* per lb.
Mohair ...	...	...	8*d.* per lb.
Forage ...	...	...	25*s.* to 30*s.* per 100 bundles.

The wheat crop of Leribe has up to now been inconsiderable, but this year a large quantity of seed wheat has been issued to natives on credit by an arrangement between Government and the Chamber of Commerce which, if the crop is successful, should add greatly to the purchasing power of the people. 20,332 passes have been issued during the year, of which 7,505 were to persons in search of work.

The following is a return of patrols performed by my police :—

No. of Patrols.	No. of Men.	Miles travelled.	Arrests.		
			Contravening Liquor Regulations.	Contravening Pass Regulations.	Other Offences.
387	586	12,406	6	57	15

I attach a report from the officer in charge at Butha-Buthe.

Relations with the officials of the Orange Free State continue to be of a friendly nature.

J. C. MACGREGOR.

Assistant Commissioner.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1897-8.—BUTHA-BUTHE SUB-DISTRICT.

I took over the duties of this district on the 2nd June 1898. On looking over the records of the past year, I find that the usual disturbances have taken place in Letsika's ward.

In July a dispute arose between Letuma and Malekopa, and arms were taken up, but fortunately no damage was done. Letuma was proved to be the aggressor, and he and some of his men were fined.

Dijo was building a village last March near the Phakoeng Hill, without having first obtained the permission of the chief Letsika, who despatched armed men to burn the huts, and a general fight occurred. Dijo was driven away, and fortunately there were no casualties. The case was tried by the Assistant Commissioner, and Letsika and Dijo were both fined 10 head of cattle.

Rinderpest broke out in this district last July and decimated the large cattle herds. The chief Joel was against inoculating at first, but afterwards consented, and every effort was made to carry on the inoculation, but without very good results, as nearly all the cattle herds became infected.

Large swarms of locusts appeared early in January, but did very little damage in this district.

AGRICULTURE.

The crops of mealies and kafir corn are very fair considering the severe drought we have experienced, and that most of the cattle have been swept off. In some places ploughing has been done with horses. The wheat crop was a failure.

TRADE.

There are sixteen trading stations in this district, and licences for five others have lately been applied for. Trade has been bad during the past year.

EDUCATION.

There are three Government-aided schools in this ward.

REVENUE.

	£	s.	d.
Hut Tax...	1,580	0	0
Licences	177	0	0
Fines	15	4	0
Fees	0	11	6
Miscellaneous	5	0	0
Total ...	£1,777	15	6

Arrear Hut Tax amounting to £76 has been paid. Tax was paid on 3,059 huts.

LICENCES.

General traders	16
Hawkers (paid)	15
Hawkers (free)	2

RETURN OF LOST STOCK.

Description.	Reported.	Traced.	Not traced.	Re-covered.	Not re-covered.
Horses	13	13	—	13	—
Cattle	4	4	—	4	—
Sheep	3	3	—	3	—

CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES TRIED DURING THE YEAR.

Civil cases...	3
Theft	9
Housebreaking	1
Infanticide...	1
Escaping from custody	1
Contravention Pass Laws	18
Contravention Custom Regulations ...	1

CURRENT PRICES OF PRODUCE AND STOCK.

Wheat...	...	...	£1 5*s.* per muid.
Mealies	...	...	12*s.* „
Kafir corn	...	...	14*s.* „
Horses...	...	...	£4 to £10.
Cattle ...	...	...	£3 to £7.
Goats ...	...	...	15*s.* to 20*s.*
Wool ...	...	...	3*d.* per lb.
Mohair	...	...	8*d.* „
Forage...	...	...	25*s.* to 30*s.* per 100 bundles.

RETURN OF PASSES ISSUED.

Seeking work ...	...	...	...	2,224
Other purposes...	...	...	...	4,932
		Total	...	7,156

RETURN OF PATROLS.

No. of Patrols.	No. of Men.	No. of Miles.	Arrests.		
			Contravening Pass Law.	Contravening Liquor Regulations.	Other Offences.
62	109	2,641	16	—	1

E. D'A. BLYTH,

Sub-Inspector B.M.P.

BASUTOLAND 1897-8.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1897-8.—BEREA DISTRICT.

The past year can only be described as an unfortunate one for Berea district.

In my last Report I mentioned an outstanding claim made by Masupha to some lands of Leshoboro. This claim he began to enforce in the early spring. Shots were fired, and five men were killed. The whole tribe was against Masupha's contention, and he gave up his claims.

The Resident Commissioner called a large and representative meeting at Maseru, at which the matter was thoroughly thrashed out, and both Masupha and Leshoboro were fined as being to blame for the bloodshed.

At the end of 1897, Moiketsi Masupha having followed a runaway woman to the Orange Free State, and assaulted her paramour, was arrested in the act of forcibly bringing her back to Basutoland, and was sentenced, together with his men, by the Orange Free State Court to lashes and imprisonment. He escaped from the convict gang with a Free State subject, also a convict, and took refuge in Basutoland. The Free State demanded his extradition, which was refused. Masupha refused to surrender Moiketsi for trial by this Government according to law, but after much delay and under considerable pressure he gave up the Free State man. Lerothodi was then ordered to arrest Moiketsi, by force if necessary. He called together a considerable force and marched by way of Swiliswili to Moiketsi's village. Moiketsi was not found, and the village was burnt. Lerothodi then returned to Thaba Bosiu and commenced regular operations against Masupha, who had made all preparations to resist and had occupied a strong position near Khamolane store. On Lerothodi's forces crossing the Phutiatsana river and approaching the fortified position they were fired upon by Masupha's men, and during the fighting which ensued for the next three weeks, some forty or fifty men were killed and wounded on each side. Surmon, a minor son of Masupha, was shot dead in a cavalry skirmish, and Mojela Letsie was severely wounded. Masupha eventually surrendered his stronghold at Khamolane and gave up Moiketsi.

The Resident Commissioner held a pitso at Maseru, at which Marthinus represented his father Masupha. Moiketsi was sentenced to fourteen months hard labour for his misdeeds; Masupha was fined, was ordered to leave Thaba Bosiu village, which together with the defences of his stronghold was destroyed, and was deprived of his chieftainship of Berea district.

All border lines were examined, and were readjusted where it was found that Masupha's people had encroached on other men. The district then settled down in quiet for some months.

It is remarkable that throughout the fighting both sides showed a moderation hardly to be hoped for in semi-savage warfare. Flags of truce were respected, neutral buildings were spared where it was possible to do so, and on several occasions the winning side was restrained by its chiefs, where a free hand meant annihilation for the defeated men.

In April, His Excellency the High Commissioner visited Berea, but having already met all the chiefs at Maseru no political meetings were held.

Marthinus the eldest surviving son of Masupha died suddenly when starting to meet His Excellency at Maseru. For the present, Fako, his younger brother, has been appointed by Masupha, with my concurrence, to look after his ward and family.

Masupha, who is getting very old and broken, is feeling severely the want of trustworthy sons to guard his interests and those of his grandson and heir, who is still a schoolboy.

At the beginning of June, Masupha on the plea of harvesting went down to Thaba Bosiu, but refused to come back on its completion. He had no sympathisers, and finding himself deserted, at length realized that the Government decision was final, and without force being used returned to his own district. I am of opinion that this satisfactory result was to a great extent due to Jonathan Molapo's personal influence. No harm was done, except the creation of a general scare among Masupha's people in Berea.

Rinderpest during the winter and spring played havoc in Berea. Opposition to and delay in inoculation gave the disease a chance which it did not get in other districts, and the result has been disastrous. About 4,000 cattle (mostly infected) were inoculated by Government after the opposition of Masupha and others was withdrawn.

Severe epidemics of dysentery and typhoid followed the rinderpest, and caused a big death-rate among the native population.

The number of passes issued during the past year amounts to 4,787 as under :—

For labour	2,300
Other purposes...	2,407

This may be taken as about half the number issued in an ordinary year.

BASUTOLAND 1897-8.

Owing to Masupha's old age and habitual dilatoriness in the matter, and in a lesser degree the circumstances of the past year, there has been even greater trouble than usual in getting in the Hut Tax. Eventually, the Resident Commissioner sent the Paramount Chief to personally assist in the collection of the outstanding part. Owing to these measures the collection has been enabled to reach that of last year, and I have great reason to expect that the remaining arrears will be soon paid up. It must, however, be expected that the Hut Tax in Berea will show a permanent decrease for some time to come. The direct and indirect consequences of Masupha's late line of conduct have been so unpleasant that the loyalty of his followers has given way, and they are leaving the district in large numbers for other chiefs.

The following is the revenue for the last year in detail of heads of receipts :—

	£	s.	d.
Hut Tax	2,500	10	0
Licences	279	7	6
Fees	4	1	0
Miscellaneous	42	14	0
Total	£2,826	12	6

Of the Hut Tax £284 were paid for arrear Hut Tax.

The police force in this district consists of :—

European officer	1
Native sergeant	1
Native corporal	1
Native lance-corporal	1
Native privates	22
Total	26

also four men temporarily lent by Maseru for special duty.

The following was the patrol work done by the detachment :—

Number of patrols	113
„ „ men	330
„ „ miles	3,547
Arrests for Liquor Law	11
„ „ Pass Laws	2
Miscellaneous offences...	5

A detachment of 10 men has been stationed on the Caledon river, opposite Lady Brand, to cope with the smuggling trade which has been lately rampant on the border.

A list of lost stock reported at this station is shown :—

Description.	Reported.	Traced.	Re-covered.	Not traced.	Not re-covered.
Horses	4	1	1	3	3
Cattle	12	10	10	2	2

The following cases were heard in this court during the year :—

Homicide	1
Assault	2
Theft	3
Public violence	3
Escape from custody	2
Liquor Laws	15
Pass Laws	5

There are 22 licenced trading stations in the district.

During the year there were 15 hawkers' licences issued, of which 11 were free and 4 were paid.

The roads are in fair order. Much damage was done by the very heavy rains of January, following on the protracted drought of the spring.

The crops, though much damaged by drought and locusts, were not bad as a whole, more damage being done by neglect during the disturbances than by want of rain. The wheat crops, however, failed completely. The natives not having even got their seed back, arrangements have been made for them to obtain seed-wheat on credit, to be paid back at harvest time.

There is no immediate danger of hunger in the district, although many people at Christmas sold their reserve of grain to prevent its capture.

L. WROUGHTON,

Assistant Commissioner.

BASUTOLAND 1897-8.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1897-8—MASERU DISTRICT.

The peace of the district was undisturbed for the first five months of the year, but the attitude of the chief Masupha, in disregarding the demand of the Paramount Chief for the surrender of his son Moiketsi, who made his escape from gaol in Lady Brand, threw the district into a state of intense anxiety and unrest. Lerothodi, acting on instructions from Government, found it necessary to take active measures, and was loyally supported by all the chiefs in the district, excepting Maama, who declined to take the field against Masupha, who is his uncle and father-in-law, and it was obvious that he wished to join Masupha, but his movements were closely watched by Lerothodi and frustrated. He was punished for this conduct.

After the loss of many lives on both sides the sons of Masupha realized their inability to hold their own against Lerothodi, and persuaded Masupha to surrender Moiketsi. Operations then terminated. Masupha was tried, and amongst other things was ordered to leave his village at Thaba Bosiu, which is in the Maseru district.

During the present month Masupha was permitted to come to Thaba Bosiu to reap the crops he cultivated before the row. After doing so, once having returned to his old village, he was reluctant to leave again and expressed his intention of not going away. Jonathan Molapo came to the rescue, and, using his good offices, prevailed on Masupha to abide by the Resident Commissioner's orders.

The inoculation of cattle in this district as a preventative against rinderpest was concluded in July. The operation on the whole has proved highly satisfactory, and I am pleased to report that in no instance in this district has the disease shown itself again.

A severe drought was experienced during the spring months, and as a consequence the harvest of wheat, mealies, and Kafir corn, comparatively speaking, proved a total failure. Locusts visited the district during the months of November and December, but owing to the paucity of the crops did not remain any length of time. Large swarms of vœtgangers which appeared in March were destroyed by locust fungus, which was obtained from the Grahamstown Bacteriological Institute.

His Excellency the High Commissioner was pleased to visit Basutoland, and on the day of his arrival here was met by a large gathering of chiefs and people to extend to him their expressions of loyalty and welcome.

COMMERCIAL.

There has been a marked falling off of trade, accounted for by the failure of the crops. Those fortunate enough to reap even a small harvest of mealies have realized good prices.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The roads in the district are in fair order, and all Government buildings are in good repair.

POLICE.

The district detachment is efficient and consists of—

Sub-inspector	1
European constables	4
Native sergeant	1
Native corporals	2
Native privates	46

The following particulars are of patrols performed by the detachment during the year :—

Number of patrols	30
Number of men employed	127
Number of miles patrolled	3,800
Arrests for contravening Liquor Laws	6
Other offences	3

Since the removal of the restrictions necessitated by rinderpest regulations the border has been once more opened to illicit traffic in liquor, and I regret to say that it has been considerably on the increase of late.

In suppressing crime and facilitating the maintenance of law and order the chiefs have rendered the usual assistance.

The following return shows action taken in the matter of lost and stolen stock :—

Description.	Reported.	Traced.	Not Traced.	Recovered.	Not Recovered
*Horses ...	23	—	23	3	20*
Cattle ...	16	6	10	6	10
Sheep ...	95	—	95	—	95

* Four recovered in Orange Free State.

LICENCES.

The following licences were issued during the year :—

General traders	26
Paid hawkers	11
Free	14

BASUTOLAND 1897–8.

The following cases were tried in my court :—

Theft	7
Housebreaking and theft	4
Contravening Gaol Regulations ...	1
Contravening Police Offences Act ...	3
Rape and theft	1
Concealment of birth	1
Contravening Customs Regulations ...	4
Contravening Master and Servant's Act	2
Contravening Liquor Regulations ...	6
Attempting to escape from gaol ...	1
Escaping from custody	1
Contravening Pass Regulations ...	2
Assault	1
Loitering	1
Contravening Hut Tax Regulations ...	1
Contempt of Court	1
Civil actions	13

REVENUE.

The revenue for the twelve months amounts to :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Hut Tax	3,984	10	0
Licences	272	0	0
Fines	49	5	0
Ferry tolls	117	19	9
Fees	9	11	4
Miscellaneous	216	3	7
Total	£4,649	9	8

Tax was paid on 7,673 huts. Arrear tax collected amounts to £396.

PASSES.

Passes were issued to—

Seeking employment	6,398
Other purposes	4,112
Total	10,510

Relations with Border States continue to be friendly.

C. GRIFFITH,

Assistant Commissioner.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1897-8.—MAFETENG DISTRICT.

Mr. Kennan, Assistant Commissioner for the district, left for England on leave on February 21st, 1898, and on March 10th I arrived and took over charge from Sub-Inspector Murray.

In December, 1897, the trouble caused by Masupha broke out, and all the principal chiefs of the district left to join Lerothodi. There was, of course, considerable anxiety throughout the district, but, from what I can learn, the excitement was, on the whole, less than might have been expected.

I am sorry to have to report that the crops in this district last season were very bad indeed. There is at the present time great scarcity of food all through the district.

The following is a return of the police patrols during the year :—

Number of Patrols.	Number of Men engaged.	Estimated Distance travelled.	Arrests.		
			Liquor Laws.	Pass Laws.	Other Offences.
184	494	10,146	10	8	9

Two men are constantly stationed at each of the three gates—at Sephapo's, Van Rooyen, and Tsupane's.

The strength of the detachment is as follows :—

Sub-Inspector	1
European constables	2
Native constable	1
Native officer	1
Sergeant	1
Corporal	1
Privates	31

The following is a return of lost and stolen stock reported at this office during the year :—

Description.	Reported.	Traced to Basutoland.	Not traced.	Re-covered.	Not re-covered.
Horses ...	7	4	3	4	3
Cattle ...	12	4	8	4	8*
Sheep ...	134	12	122	12	122

* Four of these were found by owner in Free State.

BASUTOLAND 1897–8.

I am glad to be able to report that since my arrival in the district every help has been given by the chiefs in the matter of tracing stolen stock.

Licences issued during the year were as follows :—

General traders	23
Paid hawkers	8
Free hawkers	32

The following cases were tried in the court during the year :—

Civil cases	8
Contravening liquor laws	7
Thefts	13
Homicide	1
Concealment of birth	2
Other crimes	14

The revenue collected was :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Hut tax	3,835	0	0
Licences	238	0	0
Fines	113	12	0
Fees	10	1	0
Miscellaneous	279	13	0
	£4,476	6	0

Number of huts on which tax was collected, 7,523 ; arrears of tax collected, £99 10*s.* 0*d.*

The number of persons to whom passes were issued was—

Seeking employment	6,996
Other purposes	10,443
Total	17,439

Relations with the Free State officials have been very satisfactory.

W. BOXWELL,

Acting Assistant Commissioner.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1897-8.—MOHALE'S HOEK DISTRICT.

The early part of the past year will be long remembered in this district as a period of the severest drought experienced for many years. By many old inhabitants it was considered quite as severe as the great drought of 1862. Owing to the severity of this drought, the wheat crop in the district was practically a failure ; what little was reaped was of a light and inferior quality.

In July I left my station and proceeded to the mountains at the request of the Chief Griffith Lerothodi and others, who wished for inoculation against rinderpest. I was away up to the end of August, and during that period inoculated 4,050 cattle with very satisfactory results.

Nothing of any political importance occurred until October, when the National Pitso was called by the Resident Commissioner, and many chiefs and people proceeded to Maseru to attend. It was there notified that Hut Tax collecting would commence on November 1st.

On the 1st of November the work was started, and proceeded with vigour. So well did the people respond that by the end of the month the bulk of the tax was in, and by the end of December practically finished.

In November and December much trouble was caused by persons who illicitly incited natives to leave Basutoland for labour purposes without paying their Hut Tax or obtaining passes. This illicit practice was the cause of much delay in the collection of the Hut Tax. Prompt action was at once taken to prevent a recurrence of this malpractice.

In December the young chief Griffith made a raid on the village of Mocheko, chief of the Baphuti, and looted the place ; the cause of this was of long standing. It appears that Mocheko had slaughtered a stray ox, the owner of which found this out and complained to the Paramount Chief, who ordered that Mocheko was to be fined. He was called by Griffith, who was instructed by the Paramount Chief to try the case, but refused to attend court ; the summons was repeated from time to time with the same result. Griffith became exasperated and took matters into his own hands and raided his village. Mocheko fled through Quthing district to Herschel.

In January Mr. Mansel, who was then on leave at Maseru, was sent to Herschel to fetch back Mocheko, who refused to return,

BASUTOLAND 1897–8.

saying that he feared for his life. After some trouble Mr. Mansel succeeded in bringing him back. The matter was investigated by the Resident Commissioner, who ordered Griffith to restore the property taken at the raid.

During this month the rain that commenced in December continued and flooded all streams. The Cornet Spruit again overflowed its banks and caused a considerable amount of damage in the vicinity.

A good number of persons proceeded to Matsieng during the month, being called by the Paramount Chief to assist in suppressing the Masupha rebellion.

In February a Free State burgher, named Raats, was arrested in Basutoland for gun smuggling. He was convicted, and a Free State Government Mauser rifle, found in his possession, confiscated.

During the month the Paramount Chief sent messengers to fine all chiefs and people who did not respond to his call in January to enforce the surrender of Moiketsi Masupha.

On the 22nd of this month I received an alarming letter from Mocheko to the effect that his life was in danger from Griffith Lerothodi. I immediately proceeded to the spot and investigated the matter, and found that Mocheko's pretended alarm was without foundation. This further convinced me of his utter unreliability, which has so often and plainly shown itself.

In March a large pitso was held here, when the quarrel of Griffith and Mocheko was investigated by the Paramount Chief, with whom I was associated by order of His Honour the Resident Commissioner. Mocheko made a very poor defence, and it was apparent to me that through his weak and vacillating policy he had brought his troubles upon himself. He complained that his property, taken by Griffith at the raid, had not all been restored. The Paramount Chief gave instructions that the whole was to be restored at once, and messengers were sent to see the order carried out. In the first week of June the chief sent five horses to be handed to Mocheko to make up for any loss he might have sustained.

In April great rejoicings and satisfaction were experienced by the inhabitants of the district owing to the visit of His Excellency the High Commissioner. His Excellency was met throughout his journey by the various clans, and much loyalty and satisfaction shown.

Owing to the severity of the drought the natives were unable to cultivate, and very little grain was sown until December, when too late for certain harvest. In consequence of this very little food was grown, and grain of sorts became dear and very scarce, seed wheat especially so. Nevertheless, a fair quantity has been sown, and should rain fall in time a fair harvest may be looked forward to.

My relations with the neighbouring States continue satisfactory. Illicit traffic in guns and liquor continue, but a considerable check is put upon it through the vigilance of the police, especially in Basutoland, and also in the Free State.

Education is being promoted. I have received good reports from the Rev. Marzolff of Maphutsing. I intended inspecting the school on my return from leave, but found the schools closed for the holidays. I am arranging for an inspection early in August next.

Owing to the scarcity of food many have left, and are still leaving, for labour markets in order to obtain money to supply their wants, and a great many passes have been issued.

The roads, which were much damaged in January by the heavy and continuous rains, have been repaired and are now in good order. Road parties, under European overseers, are maintained.

The stock in the district are in good condition, and the pasturage is good owing to the large number of cattle that died from rinderpest during last year and the early part of this. For the past few months there has been a large demand for slaughter stock, and good prices are paid for fat animals. Ponies also have been in demand and fair prices have been obtained.

Below will be found a schedule of the various returns.

Passes Issued.

Labour	4,128
Other purposes...	2,677
Total ...	6,805

Return of Patrols and Arrests.

Number of Patrols.	Number of Men.	Miles travelled.	Arrests.		
			Contravening Liquor Regulations.	Contravening Pass Laws.	Other Offences.
121	198	8,866	4	12	8
			24		

Lost Stock.

Description.	Reported.	Traced.	Not traced.	Recovered.	Not recovered.
Horses	4	1	3	1	3
Cattle	1	—	1	—	1
Sheep	210	16	194	16	194

BASUTOLAND 1897–8.

RETURN OF CASES TRIED IN THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER'S COURT DURING THE YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1898.

Civil cases	4
Contravening liquor regulations	3
Contravening pass laws	20
Perjury	1
Theft	9
Contravening custom regulations	1
Assault with intent...	1
Gaol breaking	1
Gun smuggling	1
Minor offences	2
Total ...	43

LICENCES.

General traders	13
Hawkers (paid)	16
„ (free)	4
Dam licences	2
Total ...	35

REVENUE.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Hut tax	3,774	0	0
Licences :—			
General trader's licence ...	130	0	0
Hawker's „ ...	16	0	0
Dam „ ...	3	0	0
Ferry tolls		17	0
Fines	63	17	6
Fees	3	17	6
Miscellaneous...	116	2	6
Total ...	£4,107	14	6

Arrear hut tax	£168 10*s.*
Number of huts paid on	7,404

The above table shows an increase of £332 19*s.* 3*d.* on last year's revenue, Hut Tax alone being £326 10*s.* in excess of that year. This result is all the more satisfactory when the recent ravages of rinderpest and the exceptional drought of last year are considered. During the last few years the influence of Chief Mocheko in the Baphuti ward has been gradually decreasing, while that of the Chief Griffith Lerothodi is being steadily but surely made more apparent.

This gradual change induced me this year to associate myself more definitely with Griffith in the matter of Hut Tax collection, and I think that the improvement indicated by the above figures is greatly due to this policy.

A further cause of the increase is undoubtedly the prompt measures which were taken during the year to suppress the action of unauthorized and unscrupulous labour agents, who had been in the habit of assisting large numbers of natives who had not paid Hut Tax to leave the territory without passes. I believe that still more satisfactory results would be effected by adopting a system of permanent police outposts along the Cape Colonial border.

Below are the current prices of stock and produce :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Wheat, per bag	1	15	0
Mealies, „	1	0	0
Kafir corn, per bag	1	0	0
Barley, „		10	0
Oats, „		10	0
Cattle, each	6	10	0
Horses „	6	0	0
Sheep „		12	6
Goats „		10	6

J. W. BOWKER,

Assistant Commissioner.

BASUTOLAND 1897-8.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1897-8.—QUTHING DISTRICT.

Nothing of consequence has occurred in this district during the last twelve months beyond the usual petty bickerings as to rights to land, pastures, thatch grass, &c., consequent upon the natural stress caused by a rapidly expanding population. Some excitement was, of course, prevalent among the Baphutti of this district during the incident between Griffith Lerothodi and Mocheko Letuka in the adjoining Mohale's Hoek district.

Many of the men of the district took part, under their Chief Nkwebe, in the movement against Masupha during January and February last.

Agriculture has been practically a failure during the past year. Many fields have gone out of cultivation owing to ravages of rinderpest. The drought, which lasted until January, retarded and destroyed the crops so that little grain has been harvested, and the people are likely to experience considerable want.

The phenomenal rainfall of January last, 19½ inches, caused much damage to all the district roads. These have since been put into fair order.

The police stationed in the district are fairly efficient.

The following patrols have been performed :—

Number of patrols	130
Number of men employed	311
Number of miles travelled	4,358
Arrests, liquor regulations	10
„ pass „	32
„ other offences	8

The police in the neighbouring territory have reported the loss of 673 sheep and 13 goats during the year. None of these have been traced to or recovered in Basutoland. It is probable that the greater number of these animals had merely strayed, and were thereupon reported to the police as having been stolen. Liquor smuggling still continues.

There is a decrease in the number of criminal cases as compared with the previous year. The numbers were as follows :—

Contravention of rinderpest regulations ...	2
Resisting police	2
Assault	4
Theft	5
Contravention of pass regulations ...	7
Culpable homicide	2
Rape...	1
Contravention of liquor regulations ...	5

The total revenue is practically the same as that for 1896–7 ; Hut Tax, however, shows an increase of £93 10*s.*, the shortfall being under the head of licences.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Hut tax	2,419	10	0
Licences	308	4	6
Fees	4	15	6
Miscellaneous	76	2	6
Total	£2,808	12	6

Taxes were paid upon 4,797 huts, and arrears amounted to £36 10*s.*

During the past twelve months passes have been issued to 1,831 natives leaving the district in search of labour, and 2,279 for other purposes.

F. ENRAGHT-MOONY,

Assistant Commissioner.

BASUTOLAND 1897-8.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1897-8.—QACHA'S NEK DISTRICT.

In accordance with instructions received from the Resident Commissioner, I proceeded to this station on the 12th March last, Mr. Moony shortly afterwards leaving for Quthing.

At the close of last year rinderpest had not made its appearance, but broke out in July at Sekake's village. From there it travelled slowly up the Orange river to Ledingoana's ward, where it eventually died out.

Inoculation was carried out by Mr. Moony, assisted by trained natives, with very satisfactory results. During the months of September, October, and November 10,553 head of cattle were inoculated with bile and 47 with serum, thus making a total of 10,600. A serum station was established at Qacha's Nek, as it was considered inadvisable to rely upon a certain supply from Maseru owing to the distance and difficulty of transport.

Considerable difficulty was experienced in obtaining correct returns of deaths after inoculation. It is, however, estimated that 30 per cent. to 40 per cent. is a fairly correct approximation.

Towards the latter end of December, rumours were persistently circulated in the neighbouring districts of the Cape Colony that the rebel Le Fleur, for whose arrest a warrant had been issued, was in Basutoland for the purpose of persuading the chiefs and people to assist him in carrying out his rebellious schemes in East Griqualand. The Chief Makhaola, however, voluntarily stated that Le Fleur had not to his knowledge entered the country, but had merely sent him a letter for transmission to the Paramount Chief. Makhaola returned the letter, informing Le Fleur that he did not wish to act as his messenger. Notwithstanding this assurance of Makhaola's, increased patrols were sent out and the various gates carefully watched, with the result that four of Le Fleur's following were arrested and handed over to the Colonial authorities.

On January 12th a large number of natives under Makhaola, with other chiefs, left for Thaba Bosigo, in pursuance of Lerothodi's orders calling the nation to assist him in suppressing the Masupha disturbance.

On April 1st the majority of the chiefs and people of the district left for Maseru to welcome His Excellency the High Commissioner on his visit to Basutoland. On the 15th of the same month I left for the Maletsunyane Falls, reaching them on the 18th, on which day His Excellency inspected them while camped in the vicinity.

The uneasiness mentioned in the last Annual Report with regard to the border fence, appears to have died out among the Basuto in the district. The intention of the Colonial authorities to place two guards at five of the principal gates should have a salutary effect in checking thefts of stock and liquor smuggling, the former of which appears to be on the increase since the advent of colder weather. This is no doubt due to the wish to procure money to purchase blankets and clothing for winter use. In one case of sheep stealing it was reported that the thieves were overtaken by a snow storm, and that three of them perished through cold and exposure.

Educational.

There are two Government aided schools in the district, both of which I have inspected and furnished reports on.

It is noteworthy that notwithstanding that there are two native ministers in the district only two Christian marriages have taken place during the last sixteen months.

Police.

The police at this station consist of a corporal and twelve men. They have during the last year patrolled as follows :—

Number of patrols	58
Number of men	81
Miles patrolled	5,245
Arrests, pass laws	2
„ other offences	11

Public Works.

The road to this station continues, with slight attention, to keep in good order. Additions to gaol, officer's quarters, and stable have been erected or are in course of erection.

Agriculture.

The crops in the district were in a promising condition, but hard frosts in the beginning of April, and later on a heavy snow storm, considerably reduced the prospects of an abundant harvest.

Current prices are as follows :—

Wheat	20*s.* per bag.
Mealies	10*s.* „
Kafir corn	15*s.* „
Horses	£2 each and upwards.
Cattle	£5 to £7 a head.
Sheep	12*s.* each.
Goats	8*s.* „
Wool...	3*d.* per lb.
Mohair	7*d.* „

REVENUE.

	£	s.	d.
Hut tax	1,300	0	0
Licences	20	0	0
Fines	1	11	0
Ferry tolls (nil)			
Fees		5	0
Miscellaneous receipts... ...	2	10	0
Total ...	£1,324	6	0

The hut tax shows an increase of £68 on last year's collection. Arrear tax collected, £48 10*s*. Number of huts paid on, 2,503.

LOST STOCK.

The following is a return of lost and stolen stock, showing action taken, and results:—

Description.	Reported.	Traced.	Not traced.	Recovered.	Not recovered.
Horses	4	2	2	2	2
Sheep	57	—	57	—	57

CRIMINAL.

During the year the following cases were tried at this station:—

Contravening pass laws	8
Theft	7
Perjury	1

No civil cases were adjudicated upon.

PASSES.

Passes issued to men seeking work ...	1,116
„ „ „ for other reasons...	3,691
Total ...	4,807

FLOGGINGS.

No floggings have been inflicted at this station during the year.

H. R. CARTWRIGHT,

Acting Assistant Commissioner.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1897-8.—PRINCIPAL MEDICAL OFFICER.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

The exceptionally severe drought experienced during the latter part of 1897 with its attendant diminished water supply, the pollution of the fountains by the decomposing carcases of cattle which succumbed to rinderpest, the contamination of the air from the same cause, the restricted food supply which is the natural concomitant of a bad season : all these causes combined to render the past year exceptionally unhealthy.

Typhoid Fever, already firmly established in certain districts, has been prevalent throughout the year, and the epidemic in some wards was of a very severe and fatal character. Gradually increasing during the months of September and October 1897, the epidemic attained its maximum intensity in November. Cases were very numerous during the months of December and January, since when the epidemic has gradually declined, although sporadic cases still appear in the wards where the disease was most prevalent.

Dysentery of a severe type was prevalent during the early summer months, and the mortality was high. The epidemic subsided with the appearance of the summer rains.

Small-pox.—No cases have been reported. Vaccination is, however, enforced wherever possible.

Varicella.—A few mild outbreaks of this disease have been observed in most districts, and as has been formerly noticed, old people seem to have been the most frequent victims.

Influenza prevailed during the months of April, May, and June. The epidemic was mainly characterized by the mildness of the initial onset, and the severe and protean aspects of the sequela, which accounted for a considerable number of deaths.

Syphilis.—This disease appears to be decreasing in a most satisfactory manner.

Epidemic dropsy.—In January 1898, numerous cases of a disease hitherto, I think, unknown in South Africa, but which I believe is identical with that which has been recognized in India, and is known there as *epidemic dropsy*, came under the notice of

BASUTOLAND 1897–8.

the medical staff in this country. The chief symptom of the disease is the presence of general dropsy not due to either cardiac or renal disease. There is usually some fever, and in most cases at some period of this course some gastro-intestinal disturbance. Severe pains in the limbs are often complained of. In many cases, however, the dropsy is the only symptom which attracts attention. So far as our observations have extended up to the present time, children between the ages of 3 and 12 years are most commonly attacked. The disease appeared simultaneously throughout the country, and is still prevalent. Its severity and duration vary within very wide limits, from a transient oedema of the extremities which disappears spontaneously in a few days, to the most extensive general dropsy, persisting for several months. In one case this was so severe that sloughing of the tissues occurred. The mortality does not appear to be high, but death has occurred rapidly in some cases. Owing to the impossibility of obtaining post-mortem examinations in this country, the pathology of the disease as observed here rests in obscurity, and the treatment adopted has been purely empirical and eminently unsatisfactory. In some recent cases, however, the writer has obtained a fair measure of success by the exhibition of thymol, but they are too few to warrant any definite expression of opinion as to the value of this drug.

Hospital and Dispensary Work.

There has been a considerable increase in the number of both in-patients and out-patients. The maximum number of the former which the present hospital accommodation admits has been reached, and until a sufficient grant is available to enable properly equipped wards and nursing aid to be provided at the different centres, the work in this direction must necessarily be very restricted. The extra accommodation afforded in Maseru by the erection early in the year of the Jubilee Memorial Operating Room, and the provision for one nurse for the wards, has proved a great boon, and the value of having even a few properly equipped beds was amply demonstrated during the disturbances which occurred in the early part of the year, when a number of cases of gunshot injury were under treatment. In addition to the usual tables showing the number of attendances during the year, I append a table giving the number of operations performed at the different stations. The difficulty and anxiety attendant on surgical work in this country are great, owing to the fact that the medical officers have to work entirely single-handed, thus having to supervise the administration of the anæsthetic. as well as operate. Partly with a view to obviate this difficulty and partly for the purpose of endeavouring to clear up certain points connected with a little known subject, experiments have been made to test the efficacy of hypnotism as a means of inducing anæsthenia, and as a therapeutic agent. Considerable success

has attended the adoption of this method in surgical work, and by its aid during the past 8 months, upwards of 34 operations have been painlessly performed by the writer in the Maseru hospital and dispensary. Demonstrations of the method of inducing hypnosis have been given to some of the other medical officers, who have likewise adopted it with some success. Up to the present time about 64 per cent. of a series of unselected cases have been found subject to hypnotic influence. The very old and the very young appear to be least susceptible.

EDWARD C. LONG.

Principal Medical Officer.

TABLE showing the NUMBER of CASES treated at the various STATIONS during the year ended 30th June 1898.

Stations.	Out-patients.		In-patients.	Operations.
	New Cases.	Subsequent Attendances.		
Leribe	2,430	365	65	54
Maseru	3,991	1,589	105	140
Mafeteng	2,943	1,156	96	62
Mohale's Hoek ...	1,702	281	28	16
Quthing	747	183	—	—
Total ...	11,813	3,574	294	272

BASUTOLAND 1897-8.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1897-8.—MEDICAL OFFICER, LERIBE.

The following table shows the number of attendances at the dispensary and hospital during the year ended 30th June 1898 :—

New cases	2,430
Subsequent attendances	365
In-patients	65
Vaccinations	2,416
Total ...	5,276

The attendance for advice and medicine shows an increase over last year, but the number of vaccinations have decreased considerably. This is due to a number of causes, but chiefly to the closing of the border for a part of the year, and the consequent stoppage of emigration to the neighbouring territories.

GENERAL.

The numbers attending for the treatment of syphilis show a marked decrease, which is a hopeful sign. Diseases of the respiratory tract were very prevalent during the year, and they seem to be on the increase, and are in all probability due to the increasing adoption of European clothing without the knowledge of its dangers.

EPIDEMICS.

A severe epidemic of dysentery passed over this district during November and December. There were many deaths from it amongst the old and the very young. In one week in the camp there were 6 deaths, and from reports from outside districts the disease seems to have been equally severe.

During June influenza broke out and is still prevalent. The police suffered severely at first.

There was one case of typhoid fever in the camp, but the boy came from the Free State ill. The disease did not obtain a foothold.

There was no small-pox during the year.

The health of the police has been fairly good. The prisoners suffered considerably during the epidemic of dysentery.

HOSPITAL.

During the last half of the year the six beds in the hospital were fully occupied. A number of cases had to be turned away for want of room. Most of the 65 cases admitted were surgical. There were 4 deaths, all due to chronic diseases.

SANITARY.

The sanitary condition of the camp has been good. The water supply from the fountain is ample for the needs of the place if the waste water were conserved in a suitable reservoir.

CONCLUSION.

There has been an increase of work during the year, chiefly surgical. The small fee charged has weeded out those who came for the novelty of drinking a white man's medicine. People now come who are ill, and in this way the nature of the work has changed. They are beginning to appreciate the dispensary more and more, and to have a less dread of the hospital.

N. M. MACFARLANE, M.D.,

Medical Officer.

BASUTOLAND 1897–8.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1897-8.—MEDICAL OFFICER, MAFETENG.

The following list gives the attendances at the hospital dispensary for treatment and for vaccination certificates, and the list of the previous year for comparison:—

	1897–8	1896–7.
New cases	2,943	2,246
Subsequent attendances	1,156	816
Hospital in-patients	96	52
Vaccinations	7,706	1,603
Total	11,901	4,717

There have been three deaths amongst the in-patients, two from phthisis and one advanced hip disease. Owing to the limited accommodation that the hospital affords many cases have been refused admission.

In the dispensary department the cases requiring treatment have been principally those suffering from dyspepsia and syphilis. Ophthalmia has been very prevalent.

In January and February there was rather a severe epidemic of dysentery and diarrhœa, and these cases were often complicated with or followed by an attack of acute nephritis; several of these cases ended fatally, especially amongst children.

The health of the Europeans and natives in the camp has been very good, and only a few cases of chicken-pox have occurred.

Although the prison has been rather crowded at times the prisoners have kept in excellent health.

The health of the police detachment has been very good.

A. LISLE WEBB.

Medical Officer.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1897-8.—MEDICAL OFFICER, MOHALE'S HOEK.

There has been an increase of attendances at the dispensary during the past year for both professional help and vaccination as a means of obtaining passes.

The following table will show this better :—

	1896–7.	1897–8.
New cases	1,480	1,702
Subsequent attendances	272	281
Hospital in-patients	22	28
Vaccinations	1,085	3,432
Total	2,859	5,443

The increase is general, most so in number of new cases and vaccinations, the total increase being 2,584.

Of the 28 cases admitted to hospital, 18 were cured, six more or less benefited by treatment, two died, and two still remain under treatment. A large number of these patients were admitted for some venereal disorders of one sort or another.

EPIDEMICS.

During March, April, and May there was a slight outbreak of varicella (chicken-pox), but with no fatal results; adults were, however, attacked in considerable numbers.

BASUTOLAND 1897-8.

Throughout the year there have been isolated cases of typhoid fever which, however, was most prevalent during late summer months and autumn.

There were three or four deaths in the camp, and I heard of several others occurring in the district.

Influenza appeared just at the end of the year and most of the white population were attacked, although not in a severe manner, yet with a wonderful diversity of symptoms for so small a community. Natives have not taken much notice of it, and it does not seem to have caused them much discomfort or alarm, very few cases having presented themselves for treatment.

POLICE.

The health of the police has been good.

The sanitary arrangements of the camp cannot be complained of.

W. R. NATTLE.

Medical Officer.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1897-8.—MEDICAL OFFICER, QUTHING.

On the 22nd December, 1897, I arrived here, and on the following day commenced the duties of my office.

The number of patients attending during the 6 months covered by this report is 930, a number small in comparison with what might be, but large in comparison with what has been.

The want of any hospital accommodation detracts greatly from the usefulness of the medical work here, and not merely reduces the number of patients quantitatively, but influences the work qualitatively, bringing it down to exclusive out-patient work, and perforce excluding any but very minor surgical operations, and hindering continued medical treatment. The position of the camp on the top of a long steep hill also tends to keep away some who are afraid to try it, and it is a heavy climb for a person ill enough to seek the aid of the dispensary. Also, in spite of all civilising influences at work, there remains a large substratum of superstition in every native mind, and there is much more sickness in the district than the above numbers would indicate, which is treated by the "dollos" throwing and decoction brewing ngaka of the Basuto.

At the same time by reference to the books I find that the attendance during the six months now ended is between double and treble the attendance during any previous six months, so that although the natives do not take advantage to the full, or anything like it, of the medical advantages provided them by Government they are coming more and more, and as time goes on will turn their backs on the white and black quacks who have been exploiting them.

There are certain recommendations which I would make from a hygienic point of view.

1. That the source of the Quthing water supply be walled in or otherwise enclosed, so as to prevent contamination by cattle or other causes of impurity.

2. That the cesspool adjoining the offices be disinfected and closed up.

3. That the food of the prisoners should if possible have some variety, *e.g.*, by an occasional change in the nature of grain from which their food is made, and by a small admixture of fat of some kind, especially in the winter.

BASUTOLAND 1897–8.

The health of the Europeans in the camp is good.

The police detachment in the camp with their wives and families have on the whole enjoyed good health.

There has been no epidemic with the exception of whooping cough, of which there were 8 cases.

The prisoners have likewise had an immunity from infectious disease, but there has been a good deal of stomach and bowel disease of a slight nature which might be prevented, I think, by slightly changing the diet occasionally.

There has been no small-pox in the district since my arrival. I have done over 1,000 vaccinations in the 6 months, mostly with glycerinated lymph, which has given very satisfactory results, removing the objection to some lymph supplies of being at first virulent and then inert. This addition of glycerine not only makes it go a much longer way but also improves the quality in the way indicated above.

If not occupying too much space I would like to subjoin a few details of the work done at the dispensary. Of the 930 patients 747 were new patients, and 183 were "repeats" or plural attendance patients. The disease bulking most largely in the work done is syphilis in its various forms and steps. The figures are most instructive. Primary syphilis, 2 cases; secondary, 27 cases; tertiary, 114 cases. These figures show that the natives do not trouble much about the first manifestation, and the secondary stage does not even prove very alarming; they come, however, when they see the terrible effects of the tertiary stage, in most cases regarding it as a new disease, not a stage of the complaint they have long suffered from in a milder form. I have seen here most extensive destruction of organs and parts, and to produce so many and so extensive lesions argues the presence of a syphilis not benign and tending to self cure, but a virulent syphilis going on to extensive and deep-rooted destruction of organ and function.

I had 8 cases of typhoid fever here (enteric fever is another name).

Uterine diseases bulk largely, more so than we would expect, as the following list shows:—Chronic metritis, 23; acute metritis, 3; dysmenorrhœa, 9; menorrhopia, 3; ovarian neuralgia, 3; tubal colic, 1; ovarian tumour, 1.

Dysentery, 24; diarrhœa, 36; gonorrhœa and gonorrhœal arthritis, 32; erysipelas, 5; diphtheria and croup, 2; ophthalmia, 28, mostly catarrhal; 3 cases gonorrhœal; corneal ulcers, 8; cataract, 3; chalagion, 1; glaucoma, 1; aneurism, 2; locomotor ataxia, 1; leprosy, 1 new case; scurvy, 1, (from Kimberley); actinomy-cosis, 1; renal calculus, 2. Of tumours

21 various attended ; all those which it was practicable to remove I removed, others I recommended to wait or go elsewhere where there was hospital accommodation.

A large number of trifling cases of coughs and colds, amongst these, however, cases of more gravity, *e.g.*, pneumonia croupous, 2 ; pneumonia catarrhal, 15, the latter mostly amongst neglected and delicate children.

There is a good deal of scabies, which is a disease yielding at once to treatment and cleanliness, so of no importance. 23 cases of acute, and 24 of chronic, rheumatism due doubtless to exposure more or less to the weather. 1 case of tubercular phthisis came under notice about which there was no doubt. 16 cases of congenital syphilis have come under my notice in the last six months.

There is one recommendation which I would like to make and which, while not directly in the line of medical work, would be preventive in some cases of death by drowning, *i.e.*, to place at Siaka under charge of the master of the Pont two life-belts of cork. It would tend to prevent drowning, which in the last few years has accounted for 14 deaths at and near Siaka drift.

D. M. TOMORY, M.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

1899.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 259.

BERMUDA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1898.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 228.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

May, 1899.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.; and
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & CO., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & CO., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1899.

[C.—9046—27.] *Price* 1*d*.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
230	Turks and Caicos Islands	1897
231	Barbados...	,,
232	Lagos	,,
233	St. Vincent	,,
234	Sierra Leone	,,
235	Falkland Islands	,,
236	Straits Settlements	,,
237	British New Guinea	1896–97
238	Bahamas...	1897
239	St. Lucia	,,
240	St. Helena	,,
241	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
242	British Honduras	,,
243	Malta	,,
244	Fiji	,,
245	Hong Kong	,,
246	Leeward Islands	,,
247	Grenada	,,
248	Gibraltar	,,
249	Gold Coast	,,
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues	,,
251	Solomon Islands	1897–98
252	Seychelles	1897
253	Labuan	,,
254	Ceylon	,,
255	Basutoland	1897–98
256	Newfoundland	1896–97
257	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1898
258	British New Guinea	1897–98

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 259.

BERMUDA.

BERMUDA, 1898.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 228.)

GOVERNOR BARKER to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Bermuda,
23rd March, 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Annual Report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1898, which has been prepared by Mr. Alison, the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,

G. DIGBY BARKER,
Lieutenant-General, Governor
and Commander-in-Chief.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1898.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Bermuda,
22nd March, 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit to Your Excellency the following report on the Blue Book for the year 1898 :—

I.—FINANCIAL.

The Revenue for the year amounted to £38,923 and the Expenditure to £39,102. Compared with 1897, the revenue shews an increase of £2,958 and the expenditure an increase of £3,398.

2715*—75—4/99 Wt 21935 D & S—5 (B)

The following tables compare the revenue and expenditure for 1898 with that of 1897 :—

Revenue.

Year.	Customs.	Other Receipts.	Total.
	£	£	£
1897...	28,117	7,848	35,965
1898...	31,021	7,902	38,923
Increase £	2,904	54	2,958

Expenditure.

Year.	Personal Emoluments.	Other Charges.	Total.
	£	£	£
1897	17,289	18,415	35,704
1898	17,875	21,227	39,102
Increase £	586	2,812	3,398

The increase in the Revenue is nearly entirely due to the increased Customs receipts under nearly every heading. This may be accounted for in consequence of some increase in the garrison here, and the growing popularity of these Islands as a winter resort.

Compared with 1897, the following were the principal differences shewn in the disbursements :—

	£
Colonial Surveyor's Department, an increase of	2,380
Agriculture „	450

whilst in the—

Gaols Department there was a decrease of ...	203

The increase under the heading of "Colonial Surveyor" is chiefly due to expenditure on the purchase of land and erection of buildings in connection with the recent establishment of a public garden.

Revenue and Expenditure for last five years.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1894	32,476	34,216
1895	37,830	33,706
1896	34,256	34,717
1897	35,965	35,704
1898	38,923	39,102

Public Debt.

The public debt at the end of 1898 amounted to £45,600, made up as follows:—

	£
Local Inscribed Stock	40,000
New Government House Debentures	5,600

The rate of interest on the local inscribed stock is 4¼ per cent., and the average rate of interest on the Government House debentures is 4⅜ per cent. Both of these loans were issued locally.

The local inscribed stock which was issued in 1893–4 is redeemable at par in 1923, and the sum of £1,000, being the third annual instalment to be paid on account of the sinking fund created in connection therewith, was remitted last year to London for investment.

II.—Trade and Agriculture.

Imports (exclusive of specie).

The value of the Imports (exclusive of specie, valued at £199) in 1898 was £351,274.

Compared with 1897, this shews an increase of £28,200, with 1896 of £46,379, and with 1895 of £45,800.

BERMUDA, 1898.

The value of the imports from the United Kingdom and other countries respectively in 1897 and 1898 is shewn in the following table :—

—	1897.	1898.
	£	£
United Kingdom	95,424	104,974
Canada	24,550	30,611
Other British Colonies ...	6,517	7,346
United States of America	195,167	205,308
Other Countries	1,416	3,035
Total ... £	323,074	351,274

The principal imports from the United Kingdom in 1898 were clothing, valued at £6,310 ; cotton goods, £9,238 ; woollen goods, £15,021 ; oilman's stores, £6,492 ; sugar, £4,388 ; malt liquor, £20,958 ; and fancy goods, £2,974.

The principal imports from the United States of America were butter, valued at £11,497 ; flour, £19,725 ; groceries, £6,009 ; leather manufactures, £7,937 ; provisions, including smoked and pickled meat, £14,323 ; and oxen and cows, £22,482.

Exports (exclusive of specie).

The value of the Exports (exclusive of specie, valued at £7,799) in 1898 was £106,104.

Compared with 1897, this shews a decrease of £16,978, and with 1896 an increase of £5,041.

The following table shews the value of the exports to the United Kingdom and other countries respectively in 1897 and 1898 :—

—	1897.	1898.
	£	£
United Kingdom	3,519	4,041
Canada	1,640	2,138
Other British Colonies ...	1,213	1,835
United States of America	116,294	97,847
Other Countries	416	943
Total ... £	123,082	106,104

The principal exports to the United Kingdom in 1898 were arrowroot, valued at £1,241 ; and bulbs, valued at £1,195.

The principal exports to the United States were onions, valued at £58,373, a decrease compared with the preceding year of £25,739 ; bulbs, valued at £15,452, an increase compared with the preceding year of £7,372 ; and potatoes, £19,955, an increase of £426.

Value of Imports and Exports for last five years.

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1894	283,952	94,334
1895	305,474	109,018
1896	304,895	101,063
1897	323,074	123,082
1898	351,274	106,104

BOTANICAL STATION.

A public garden has been acquired since the date of the last report, and a Superintendent obtained from England, who has made considerable progress in ascertaining by experiments the causes of the various diseases which now deteriorate our crops and in determining the means to be adopted to eradicate the diseases.

Special attention has been given to the cultivation of the lily, with good results.

The garden is now under cultivation, and it is hoped good results will be obtained from its establishment.

SHIPPING ENTERED AND CLEARED.

	1897.			1898.		
	Steam.	Sailing.	Total.	Steam.	Sailing.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
British	291,993	8,961	300,954	399,904	9,847	409,751
Foreign	27,025	18,559	45,584	37,446	24,759	62,205
Total ...	319,018	27,520	346,538	437,350	34,606	471,956

SHIPPING ENTERED AND CLEARED FOR LAST FIVE YEARS.

Year.	British.	Foreign.
	Tons.	Tons.
1894	272,503	21,305
1895	286,695	74,988
1896	338,312	53,163
1897	300,954	45,584
1898	409,751	62,205

III.—LEGISLATION.

The regular Session of 1898 commenced on the 30th May and was not closed until after the commencement of 1899.

Of the 26 Acts passed during 1898 the most important are : "The Pilot Act" and "The Board of Works Act."

The first-mentioned Act is a consolidating and amending Act.

Under the Board of Works Act, the constitution of the Board is altered from a Board of from five to seven members to a Board consisting of a Chairman and nine other members, one being selected from each parish.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The Inspector of Schools furnishes the following returns :—

Twenty-one aided primary schools, with 1,215 scholars (636 boys and 579 girls) ; School fees, £485 ; Government contributions, £1,136.

Three aided secondary schools, with 104 scholars (73 boys and 31 girls) ; School fees, £330 ; Government contributions, £141.

In addition to three garrison schools and one dockyard school, there are about 30 other primary schools not receiving any aid from Colonial funds.

There are four secondary schools in the Colony receiving no Government grants.

V.—Government Institutions.

Lunatic Asylum.

Eight patients (five males and three females) were admitted into the Asylum in 1898 ; three were discharged and two died.

The daily average number of patients was 44.

VI.—Judicial Statistics.

The number of offences reported to the police or magistrates during the year was 398, an increase compared with 1897 of 62, and a decrease compared with 1896 of 64.

The number of persons apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrates was 402, of whom 218 were summarily convicted, 69 discharged for want of evidence, 95 acquitted, and 20 committed for trial in the superior courts.

Of the 218 persons summarily convicted, 148 were fined, 11 imprisoned in lieu of fine or surety, 29 peremptorily imprisoned, 3 whipped, and 27 bound over to keep the peace.

Eighteen cases were tried in the superior courts during the year, and the convictions numbered 12. Of these, nine were for offences against the person and three for offences against property.

Gaols.

The number of persons confined in the gaols was 92 (87 males and 5 females). Of these, 41 were committed for safe custody till trial, or for want of security, and 51 for purposes of penal imprisonment.

VII.—Vital Statistics.

Population and Public Health.

The Registrar-General estimated the resident civilian population of these Islands at the end of 1898 at 16,291, comprising 6,239 white (3,074 males and 3,165 females), and 10,052 coloured persons (4,635 males and 5,417 females).

Compared with the figures of the last census (taken in 1891), the total population shews an estimated increase of 1,278.

The birth-rate was 32·8 and the death-rate 19·4 per 1,000. The infants registered as born out of wedlock were in the proportion of 15·5 to 100 births.

The average strength of the Imperial forces in Bermuda in 1898 was 3,200, and the deaths numbered 18, the rate of mortality thus being about 5·6 per 1,000. Of these deaths five were due to enteric fever.

The senior medical officer in charge of the Military forces in the command reports that the general health of the troops has been good. Average strength of the garrison 1,730; number of admissions to hospital, 865; ratio of admission per 1,000 of strength, 500; number of deaths, 11; average number of daily sick, 48·02; average sick time to each soldier, 10·13 days; average duration of each case of sickness, 20·26 days; average strength of officers, 63; cases of sickness, 18; deaths, none.

The principal Naval medical officer reports that the number of cases of disease and injury admitted into the Royal Naval Hospital was 311, four less than during 1897. The most prevalent diseases were venereal affections and their sequelæ, diseases of the glandular system and connective tissue, wounds and injuries, and diseases of the digestive system.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

The returns from the observatory at Prospect Camp, which is 151 feet above sea level, shew as follows:—

Mean atmospheric pressure for the year, 30·114 inches; mean temperature of the air, 70·4 degrees; mean relative humidity, 77·4 per cent.; mean hourly velocity of the wind, 8·2 miles; total amount of rainfall during the year, 48·19 inches; difference of rainfall from average of past eight years, 14·62 inches less; number of days during the year on which rain fell, 207.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES.

The Imperial expenditure returns are as follows:—

	£
Governor's salary	2,199
Military Establishments	135,850

Compared with 1897, the latter return shews an increase of £26,318.

The expenditure on the Naval establishments is not returned.

The average strength of the Regular Military forces at Bermuda in 1898 was 1,730; and the average strength of the Naval forces 1,470.

Return of Militia:—Two companies, viz.: The Bermuda Militia Artillery, 106 officers and men; and the Submarine Miners Engineer Militia, 43 officers and men.

Return of Volunteers:—Bermuda Rifle Volunteer Corps, 319 officers and men.

X.—General Observations.

Civil Establishment.

In May Mr. G. A. Bishop was appointed the first Superintendent of the newly-established Public Garden.

XI.—Board of Trade Statistics.

The usual table prepared for the Board of Trade statistics is given below:—

Population.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1897	7,618	8,480	16,098
1898	7,709	8,582	16,291

—	1897.	1898.
	£	£
Gross amount of public revenue	35,965	38,923
Gross amount of public expenditure	35,704	39,102
Customs revenue	28,117	31,021
Public debt...	46,100	45,600

——	1897.	1898.
	Tons.	Tons.
Total tonnage of vessels entered and cleared ...	346,538	471,956
Tonnage of British vessels entered and cleared...	300,954	409,751
Tonnage of foreign vessels entered and cleared...	45,584	62,205
Tonnage of sailing vessels entered and cleared...	27,520	34,606
Tonnage of steam vessels entered and cleared...	319,018	437,350
	£	£
Value of total imports (including specie) ...	323,148	351,473
Value of total imports of gold and silver, bullion and specie (so far as can be stated).	74	199
Value of imports from the United Kingdom (including specie).	95,424	105,033
Value of total exports (including specie) ...	127,703	113,903
Value of total exports of gold and silver, bullion and specie (so far as can be stated).	4,621	7,799
Value of total exports to the United Kingdom (including specie).	3,519	4,041
Amount of expenditure from loans on public works.	nil.	nil.

I have, &c.,

ARCHIBALD ALISON,

Colonial Secretary.

To His Excellency
Lieut.-General G. Digby Barker, C.B.,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief,
Bermuda.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

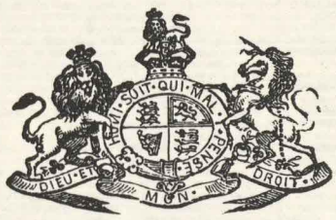
No. 254.

CEYLON.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 218.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
December 1898.



LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE. EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C., and
32. ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1898.

[C.—9046-22.] *Price* 1*d*.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
225	Jamaica	1896–97
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
227	Leeward Islands	1896
228	Bermuda	1897
229	Gambia	,,
230	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
231	Barbados...	,,
232	Lagos	,,
233	St. Vincent	,,
234	Sierra Leone	,,
235	Falkland Islands	,,
236	Straits Settlements	,,
237	British New Guinea	1896–97
238	Bahamas	1897
239	St. Lucia...	,,
240	St. Helena	,,
241	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
242	British Honduras	,,
243	Malta	,,
244	Fiji	,,
245	Hong Kong	,,
246	Leeward Islands	,,
247	Grenada	,,
248	Gibraltar...	,,
249	Gold Coast	,,
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues	,,
251	British Solomon Islands	1897–98
252	Seychelles	1897
253	Labuan	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

CEYLON, 1897.

No. 254.

CEYLON.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 218.)

GOVERNOR SIR J. WEST RIDGEWAY to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Queen's Cottage, Nuwara Eliya,
Ceylon,
29th September 1898.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward herewith the usual Report on the Blue Book of Ceylon for the year 1897.

I have, &c.,
WEST RIDGEWAY.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF CEYLON FOR THE YEAR 1897.

The progress of the Island during the year under review was very marked. The revenue far exceeded that of any previous year, and notwithstanding a liberal policy in Public Works the expenditure was kept well within bounds. The Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty's reign was celebrated throughout the length and breadth of Ceylon with unbounded loyalty and fervour. The public health was good, and notwithstanding its proximity to, and frequent communications with, the continent of India, the Island is to be congratulated on its entire immunity from plague.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The revenue of the Colony during the year 1897 amounted to Rs. 24,006,521, and the expenditure to Rs. 21,634,377.

The figures for the last two years were:—

——	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
1895 ...	20,982,808	20,899,713
1896 ...	21,974,573	21,237,859

1052*—75—11/98 Wt 21620 D & S—5 (B)

Revenue.

2. The above figures show an increase of Rs. 2,031,948 as compared with the revenue of 1896. The rise in the revenue of 1897, amounting to considerably more than *two million rupees*, to use a popular phrase, "broke all previous records." From 1889 there has been, except in 1893, a steady rise every year of—roughly speaking—one million rupees, the figures being in millions 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, while this year it reached the unprecedented figure 24 in millions of rupees. This satisfactory increase was in nowise due to increased taxation or any unexpected windfall, but to the general prosperity of the Island, the people of which, in the year under review, imported more goods, travelled more, bought more Crown land, ate and drank more, wrote more letters and telegrams, and in general flourished more than in any previous year, to the no small gain both of themselves and of the Government.

3. The increases and decreases in revenue under the various sub-heads are explained in detail in the volume.

Expenditure.

4. The total increase of expenditure as compared with 1896 was Rs. 396,518. A full explanation of the various instances of increase and decrease under the different heads of expenditure will be found in the Blue Book.

5. The increase in the expenditure is largely due to supplementary votes due to the damage done to the roads by the great floods of December 1896.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

6. The following table showing the assets and liabilities of the Government on January 1, 1898, as compared with January 1, 1897—

Assets.		Liabilities.	
1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.
Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
18,909,457 40	18,223,789 60	18,241,051 53	15,250,340 94½
—	—	668,405 87*	2,973,448 65½*
—	—	18,909,457 40	18,223,789 60

* Balance of assets over liabilities.

reveals the financial condition of the Colony as being sound, as the demand for Ceylon Stock also testifies.

PUBLIC DEBT.

7. The sterling debt of the Colony raised in London amounted on the 31st December 1897 to £3,766,000, as against £3,519,503 on the same day in the preceding year.

8. The debt of the Colony, raised in silver in Colombo, amounted to Rs. 3,365,000, as compared with Rs. 3,290,595 on the same date in 1896.

CUSTOMS AND SHIPPING.

9. The total value of the trade of the Colony for the year 1897 was Rs. 183,127,077, as against Rs. 175,629,442 in 1896, thus :—

——	1896.	1897.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Imports	87,788,085 0	98,027,473 95
Exports	87,841,357 0	85,099,603 45
Total	175,629,442 0	183,127,077 40

Or, deducting specie :—

——	1896.	1897.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Imports	77,083,587 29	85,730,156 92
Exports	75,859,428 81	83,229,304 45
Total	152,943,016 10	168,959,460 37

10. The gross Customs revenue for 1897 was Rs. 6,278,787·49, which, compared with 1896, shows an increase of Rs. 727,815·84.

CEYLON, 1897.

11. The principal imports and exports compare with those of 1896 as follows :—

Imports.		1896.	1897.
Rice...	bus.	7,594,413	8,723,750
Cotton goods	Rs.	5,992,367	7,866,099
Metals and metalware ...	„	2,680,771	4,114,072
Coal and coke	tons.	373,452	414,912
Specie	Rs.	10,631,809	12,200,172
Exports.			
Coffee	cwts.	23,122	18,604
Cinchona	lbs.	1,377,180	591,136
Tea	„	110,095,193	114,466,318
Cacao	cwts.	33,890	35,121
Cardamoms	lbs.	463,233	551,463
Cocoanut products :—			
Coir stuffs	cwts.	161,761	178,162
Cocoanut oil	„	390,813	488,342
Copperah	„	50,257	115,466
Arrack	gals.	117,376	109,598
Cinnamon	lbs.	3,182,823	3,850,005
Citronella oil	ozs.	19,492,669	18,853,637
Plumbago	cwts.	361,061	379,415

12. The large increase in the import of cotton goods is an unmistakable proof of the prosperity of the Island, as evidenced by the purchasing power of the inhabitants. With regard to the exports, the most satisfactory feature is the increase in the quantity and value of the produce of the cocoanut palm exported. The value amounted to no less than Rs. 13,142,621, showing an increase over the previous year of nearly two million rupees.

The value of tea exported was Rs. 46,931,190.

Shipping.

13. The shipping returns for the Island show a decrease in tonnage :—

1896.			1897.		
	No.	Tons.		No.	Tons.
Entered ...	3,953	3,526,323	Entered ...	3,771	3,367,415
Cleared ...	3,983	3,553,355	Cleared ...	3,785	3,337,332
Total ...	7,936	7,079,678	Total ...	7,556	6,704,747

The decrease is attributable to the effect of quarantine restrictions on the trade with the west coast of India.

COLOMBO HARBOUR.

14. The expenditure for the year amounted to Rs. 1,509,874·33, and the total expenditure from the commencement of the work to Rs. 16,573,146·07.

15. The whole of the staging for the north-east breakwater was completed in November 1897, in twenty months from the date of commencement.

16. The usual series of observations made over the south-west breakwater showed that the condition of the work still remains eminently satisfactory. No displacement of any kind or undue settlement has to be recorded.

17. The depth of the harbour has been maintained. Soundings taken over the harbour, with a view to determine what change is taking place, show no appreciable silting action.

PUBLIC WORKS.

18. The expenditure of the Public Works Department for 1897 amounted to Rs. 3,958,931·74, as compared with Rs. 3,437,862·47 in 1896.

19. The expenditure may be thus classified :—

	Rs.	c.
Personal Emoluments ...	393,612	14
Annually Recurrent Works ...	1,726,669	34
Extraordinary Public Works	1,683,673	2
Works chargeable to Loans ...	154,977	24
Total ...	3,958,931	74

20. 3,537·10 miles of roads were maintained in 1897 in good order, and the public buildings and works of the Colony were kept in satisfactory order.

21. The Colombo foreshore reclamation has been finished as far as the coaling ground; the new roads in the Province of Uva have been considerably advanced; the Dehiwala flood-outlets and the Giant's Tank and Kanukkeni irrigation works in the Northern Province have made fair progress.

The Public Works and Irrigation Departments are being thoroughly re-organized.

SURVEY DEPARTMENT.

22. The expenditure of the Department in 1897 amounted to Rs. 480,280·97, as compared with Rs. 447,674 in 1896.

23. The total revenue from land sales was Rs. 491,452·85, or an increase of Rs. 48,363·97 over the revenue of 1896.

24. The area of land alienated by the Crown during 1897 was 22,446 acres and 31 perches. Of these, 4,695 acres 2 roods 7 perches were sold to Europeans at an average rate of Rs. 20·82, and 17,750 acres 2 roods 24 perches were purchased by natives at the rate of Rs. 30·61 per acre. The cultivation of the cocoanut palm, which was almost entirely in native hands, has been vigorously taken up by English capitalists, and will prove a valuable stand-by in case of the possible failure of tea.

25. The operations of the Department were unusually interesting, the Department having been entirely re-organized. Topographical and cadastral surveys on a considerable scale were undertaken during the year, and the work will greatly facilitate settlements under the Waste Lands Ordinance, Forest Administration, and Irrigation.

FOREST DEPARTMENT.

26. In settlement, extension, and improvement of forests, useful work was done during the year. Considerable areas situated in the Province of Sabaragamuwa were reserved, and some demarcation work was also done.

27. The value of sales of timber and other produce during the year amounts to Rs. 488,956·21.

RAILWAYS.

28. The receipts in 1897 amounted to Rs. 7,326,916, as compared with Rs. 6,777,832 in 1896, thus showing an increase of Rs. 290,074.

29. The expenditure, including new works, rolling stock, and loss on exchange, was Rs. 3,428,900, as compared with Rs. 3,087,790 during 1896.

30. The net earnings were Rs. 2,608,364, or 4·52 per cent. on the total capital cost of Rs. 57,734,069, an increase of 50 per cent. on the amount earned in 1896.

31. The mileage of railway open for traffic in 1897 was 297 miles. No further extensions were commenced.

POST OFFICE.

32. The total revenue was Rs. 979,435.

33. The actual expenditure was Rs. 838,275.

34. The deposits in the Post Office Savings Bank rose from Rs. 1,006,971 at the end of 1896 to Rs. 1,051,632 at the end of 1897, an indication of general prosperity and of a growing habit of thrift among the natives. The number of savings bank offices at the end of the year was 140.

LEGISLATION.

35. There was little legislation of interest during the year. The most important laws passed were :—

(1.) The Waste Lands Ordinance ;
(2.) The Joint Stock Banking Ordinance ;
(3.) The Widows and Orphans' Pension Fund Ordinance ;
(4.) The Quarantine and Prevention of Diseases Ordinance.

VITAL STATISTICS.

36. The annexed table shows the births and deaths per thousand of the population for the year 1897, as compared with the average of the last ten years :—

——	1897.	Average.
Births to 1,000 persons living ...	36·9	31·1
Deaths to 1,000 persons living ...	23·2	26·6

INDIAN IMMIGRANTS.

37. The arrivals of immigrant coolies amounted to 84,330, and the departures to 14,123.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

38. The general health of the people was fairly satisfactory as regards infectious diseases.

39. There were 216 cases of cholera reported during 1897, of which 124 proved fatal.

CEYLON, 1897.

40. There was no increase in mortality from small-pox: 35 cases with 3 deaths, as against 17 cases and 3 deaths in the previous year.

41. The following table shows the total number of persons vaccinated in 1896 and 1897 :—

1896	165,379
1897	148,933

The subjoined table gives the number of hospitals and dispensaries open in 1897 :—

Civil Hospitals, including Field or Parangi Hospitals	38
Medical Aid Hospitals	15
Immigrant Hospitals	6
Dispensaries (Civil and District)	303
Lying-in Hospital	1
Asylums	2

The death-rate of the total sick population in all the hospitals and asylums in 1897 was 9·79, as against 9·66 in 1896.

42. The expenditure of the Medical Department amounted to Rs. 1,077,151.

43. The cost of working the Medical Aid Ordinance appears as under :—

	Rs. c.
Total cost in 1897	374,938 80
Receipts	127,114 27
Export Duty	107,880 37
Deficit...	139,944 16
Total ...	374,938 80

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

44. The following table shows the number of cases instituted and of persons charged and persons convicted before Police Magistrates during 1896 and 1897 :—

—	Cases Instituted.	Persons Charged.	Persons Convicted.
1896	64,073	101,209	24,659
1897	67,514	101,910	26,004

45. The following table shows the number of persons convicted and acquitted in the Superior Courts for the same period :—

—	Superior Courts.	
	Convictions.	Acquittals.
1896	953	800
1897	1,360	1,353

46. The results of the trials for murder and culpable homicide not amounting to murder were as follows :—

Number of persons tried for murder	72
Number of persons convicted of murder	38
Number of persons convicted of culpable homicide	45
Number of persons acquitted	9

PRISONS.

47. The total number of admissions for 1897 shows an increase of 1,713 when compared with those for 1896. The daily average, excluding road defaulters, increased from 1,958 in 1896 to 2,178 in 1897.

48. The expenditure for the years 1896 and 1897 was as under :—

	Rs.
1896	426,552
1897	463,427

49. The health of the prisoners in 1897 was very satisfactory. The daily average of sick was 8·05 per cent., against a little less than 10 per cent. in the preceding year.

EDUCATION.

50. During the year under review there was an increase of 8,848 scholars in schools reporting to the Instruction Department, the total number in 1897 being 184,506 as against 175,658 in 1896.

CEYLON, 1897.

51. The proportion which the number of children attending school bears to the population of the several provinces for 1896 and 1897 is shown in the following table :—

Province.	1896.	1897.
Western	1 in 11	1 in 10
Central	1 in 25	1 in 25
Northern	1 in 12	1 in 10
Southern	1 in 16	1 in 17
Eastern	1 in 17	1 in 17
North-Western	1 in 25	1 in 23
North-Central	1 in 36	1 in 28
Uva	1 in 52	1 in 49
Sabaragamuwa	1 in 33	1 in 33
Average ...	1 in 17	1 in 16

52. The annexed table gives the comparative returns of attendance in Government, grant-in-aid, and unaided schools for 1896 and 1897 :—

—	Number of Schools in		Total Scholars in	
	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.
Government Schools ...	474	474	44,538	45,113
Grant-in-Aid Schools ...	1,130	1,172	94,400	102,485
Unaided Private Schools ...	2,268	2,331	36,720	36,908
Total ...	3,872	3,977	175,658	184,506

53. The sphere of usefulness and the accommodation of the Technical School, which was established in 1893, were largely extended. The area of employment has been enlarged, and embraces prospects in the Public Works, Survey, Railway, and Telegraph Departments.

54. The expenditure on education during 1897 was Rs. 716,766.

E. NOEL WALKER,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo,
September 27th, 1898.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 274.

CEYLON.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1898.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 254.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
October, 1899.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C., and
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1899.

[C. 9498–8.] *Price* 2*d*.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
247	Grenada	1897
248	Gibraltar	,,
249	Gold Coast	,,
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues	,,
251	British Solomon Islands	1897–98
252	Seychelles	1897
253	Labuan	,,
254	Ceylon	,,
255	Basutoland	1897–98
256	Newfoundland	1896–97
257	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1898
258	British New Guinea	1897–98
259	Bermuda	1898
260	Niger.—West African Frontier Force ...	1897–98
261	Jamaica	,,
262	Barbados	1898
263	Falkland Islands	,,
264	Gambia	,,
265	St. Helena	,,
266	Leeward Islands	,,
267	St. Lucia	,,
268	Fiji	,,
269	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
270	Malta	,,
271	Gold Coast	,,
272	Trinidad	,,
273	Sierra Leone	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland ...	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific ...	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands... ...	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.

No. 274.

CEYLON

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 254.)

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR SIR E. NOEL WALKER to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Queen's House, Colombo,
Ceylon,
11th August 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the usual Report on the Blue Book of Ceylon for the year 1898, prepared by Mr. J. J. Thorburn, the second Assistant Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,
E. NOEL WALKER.

REPORT ON THE CEYLON BLUE BOOK OF 1898.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue.

The record revenue of 1897 was handsomely surpassed by that of 1898, the figures being Rs. 25,138,669·26 against Rs. 24,006,521·83½. The estimated revenue for 1898 was realized, with Rs. 1,727,669·26 to spare.

3683*—75—9/99 Wt 21935 D & S—5 (B)

2. The comparative statement of revenue of 1897 and 1898 shows :—

—	Revenue of 1897.	Revenue of 1898.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
1. Customs	5,973,785 4	6,395,442 24	429,177 12	7,519 92
2. Port, Harbour, Wharf, and Lighthouse Dues...	971,429 31	1,099,204 67	127,775 36	—
3. Licenses, Excise, and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified.	5,456,917 87	5,528,529 84	167,312 70	95,700 73
4. Fees of Court or Office, Payment for Specific Services, and Reimbursements in Aid.	1,499,558 92	1,526,037 19	98,428 72	71,950 45
5. Posts and Telegraphs	827,801 62	955,884 74	150,545 47	22,462 35
6. Government Railways	7,318,682 88	7,558,611 2	239,928 14	—
7. Rents of Government Property...	99,017 42	133,663 50	34,646 8	—
8. Interest	539,892 20	630,267 41	105,766 98	15,391 77
9. Miscellaneous Receipts	308,633 23½	171,701 37	63,790 64½	200,722 51
10. Sale of Government Property	511,833 26	528,378 21	18,097 18	1,552 23
11. Land Sales	498,970 8	610,949 7	113,434 77	1,455 78
Total	24,006,521 83½	25,138,669 26	1,548,903 16½	416,755 74
		Deduct Decrease ...	416,755 74	
		Net Increase	1,132,147 42½	

3. Under each head there is an increase, except in the case of "Miscellaneous," which was unduly swelled in 1897 by an exceptional item. If this item be left out of consideration miscellaneous receipts show an increase also, and there is nothing to mar the gratifying series of progressive figures.

4. The "Customs" figures show a satisfactory increase in imports and exports and contain a new item in the export duty on arrack levied under Ordinance No. 7 of 1898.

5. "Port and Harbour Dues" testify to the greater number and tonnage of steamers calling at Colombo; "Licenses, Excise, &c.," show increased consumption of salt and arrack—a combination which might in some circumstances indicate cause and effect; "Post and Telegraphs" disclose a phenomenal increase in telegraph receipts, due to the success of the 25-cent telegram; "Railways" continue to show enhanced returns; and "Land Sales" a greater extent of land sold. The year was one of steady and maintained progress unaided by any windfall or adventitious revenue.

Expenditure.

6. The expenditure for 1898 was Rs. 22,843,851·89, and exceeded that of any previous year.

7. The comparative statement of the expenditure of 1897 and 1898 is as follows :—

Heads of Service.	1897.	1898.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
1. Charges on account of Public Debt	2,860,295 51	2,808,860 72	—	51,434 79
2. Pensions	1,013,966 30	1,032,154 39	18,188 9	—
3. His Excellency the Governor	123,950 68	121,770 5	—	2,180 63
3*a*. Civil Service	—	666,281 9	666,281 9	—
4. Secretariat	268,528 34	198,587 91	—	69,940 43
5. Audit Office	69,351 17	47,465 42	—	21,885 75
6. Treasury	56,724 45	39,337 97	—	17,386 48
7. Provincial Administration	1,100,479 6	974,979 5	—	125,500 1
8. Survey Department	467,576 23	567,796 98	100,220 75	—
9. Customs Department	154,988 54	115,037 5	—	39,951 49
10. Port and Marine Department, Colombo	237,986 55	259,135 36	21,148 81	—
11. Port and Marine Department other than Colombo	37,085 2	38,691 76	1,606 74	—
12. Botanic Gardens...	51,297 7	51,726 6	428 99	—
13. Colombo Museum	22,932 53	23,911 70	979 17	—

14	Legal Departments:—				
	Supreme Court	130,280 92	127,693 32	—	2,587 60
	Attorney-General	56,394 33	56,929 69	535 36	—
	Solicitor-General	12,421 54	12,001 25	—	420 29
	District Courts	245,620 49	148,052 35	—	97,568 14
	Courts of Requests and Police Courts	195,963 22	116,861 39	—	79,101 83
	Registration of Lands	86,808 91	77,411 72	—	9,397 19
	Registration of Marriages, Births, and Deaths	80,182 62	97,487 13	17,304 51	—
	Fiscals	196,481 14	192,906 15	—	3,574 99
	Loan Board	5,731 99	5,695 54	—	36 45
15.	Police	697,552 11	710,953 15	13,401 4	—
16.	Prisons	477,388 56	517,157 28	39,768 72	—
17.	Medical Department	348,542 16	366,414 65	17,872 49	—
18.	Hospitals and Dispensaries	977,340 64	1,138,644 74	161,304 10	—
19.	Ecclesiastical	51,463 86	49,835 0	—	1.628 86
20.	Education...	716,766 71	738,122 5	21,355 34	—
21.	Transport	20,387 43	20,481 46	94 3	—

Comparative statement of the expenditure of 1897 and 1898—*continued.*

Heads of Service.	1897.	1898.	Increase.	Decrease
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
22. Exchange	241,939 75	197,751 54	—	44,188 21
23. Military Expenditure	1,824,602 5	1,900,976 23	76,374 18	—
24. Miscellaneous Services	824,491 34	827,513 35	3,022 1	—
25. Colonial Store	80,284 46	71,372 88	—	8,911 58
26. Crown Agents, London	2,113 30	2,733 89	620 59	—
27. Forests	481,566 89	501,089 82	19,522 93	—
28. Post Office and Telegraphs	835,752 79	933,365 70	97,612 91	—
29. Railway Department	3,333,326 14	3,635,279 98	301,953 84	—
30. Public Works Department	372,891 79	387,609 12	14,717 33	—
31. Public Works Annually Recurrent	1,519,439 16	1,643,771 62	124,332 46	—
32. Public Works Extraordinary	1,353,482 19	1,420,005 38	66,523 19	—
Total	21,634,377 94	22,843,851 89	1,785,168 67	575,694 72
Deduct Decrease ...			575,694 72	
Net Increase			1,209,473 95	

8. The Survey Department, Hospitals and Dispensaries, the Post Office, Railway, and Public Works met with the greatest measure of success in their claims for a share of the good things available.

9. The total revenue and expenditure for the last five years is tabulated in the statement given below :—

——	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Revenue	19,485,310 91½	20,982,808 78	21,974,573 41½	24,006,521 83½	25,138,669 26
Expenditure	20,342,899 31*	20,899,713 59	21,237,859 66	21,634,377 94	22,843,851 89
Expenditure from Surplus Funds	729,920 49	364,648 38	37,095 28	5,092 64	1,668 88
Expenditure from Balances of Votes of previous years.	289,401 70	251,905 23	—	—	—

* The deficit in 1894 was met from Surplus Revenue.

10. The expenditure, while increasing with the revenue, has done so at a slower pace, the increase of 1898 over 1894 being but 2½ million rupees, while the revenue in the same period has risen by over 5½ million.

11. The expenditure from surplus funds, which was Rs. 729,920·49 in 1894, fell to Rs. 1,688·88 in 1898.

(B.) Important Changes in Taxation.

There were no important changes in taxation during the year.

(C.) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

1. The total assets on the 1st January, 1899, were Rs. 21,340,061·51 and the liabilities Rs. 16,005,932·70½, showing an excess of assets over liabilities of Rs. 5,334,128·79½, against which, however, must be set off the amount to be appropriated for the Northern Railway extension (Rs. 2,500,000) and the amount appropriated to meet the excess of estimated expenditure over estimated revenue for 1899 (Rs. 127,600), which reduces the excess to Rs. 2,706,528·79½.

2. On the 1st January, 1898, the excess of assets over liabilities was Rs. 2,973,448·65½.

(D.) PUBLIC DEBT, SHOWING PROVISION FOR PAYMENT.

The balance due by the Colony on its sterling debt raised in London amounted on December 31st, 1898, to £3,470,821 6*s.* 3*d.*, while the balance on the debt raised locally in silver was Rs. 3,266,212·18. The total debt is thus less than three years' revenue.

(E.) CURRENCY.

Legal tender currency consists of Ceylon Government notes of Rs. 100, Rs. 50, Rs. 10, and Rs. 5, the Indian rupee with a subsidiary silver coinage of 50-cent, 25-cent, and 10-cent pieces, and a copper coinage of 5-cent, 1-cent, ½-cent, and ¼-cent pieces.

About half of the face value of the paper issued is held in specie by the Currency Commissioners, the remaining moiety being invested in Indian Government paper and other approved securities :—

—	Value.	
Circulation.		
Currency notes in circulation on December 31st, 1898.	—	Rs. c. 10,598,700 0
Reserve.	In Silver. Rs. c.	In Securities. Rs. c.
By silver in the vault (8 cents copper) ...	4,984,777 48	—
By investments made by the Crown Agents	—	2,795,318 8
By investments made in Indian Government paper.	—	2,818,604 44
	4,984,777 48	5,613,922 52
Total	Rs 10,598,700	

4. The Mercantile Bank of India, Ltd., the Bank of Madras, the National Bank of India, Ltd., and the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation do business in the Colony.

(F.) Comparative Statement of Total Revenue and Expenditure of Municipalities and Public Boards.

Name of Municipality.	Revenue or Expenditure.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	Total.
		Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Colombo	Revenue	689,622 79	726,554 31	786,597 49	834,546 17	922,189 17	3,959,509 93
	Loans	—	—	—	—	50,000 0	50,000 0
	Expenditure ...	630,337 6	655,372 59	704,856 69	798,423 1	837,809 72	3,626,799 7
Kandy	Revenue	117,413 31	114,884 84	116,854 57	125,414 90	131,379 34	605,946 96
	Loans	—	—	—	40,000 0	103,000 0	143,000 0
	Expenditure ...	109,136 38	114,136 22	119,142 62	119,217 71	166,774 19	628,407 12
Galle	Revenue	77,005 28	70,723 47	68,724 98	71,080 0	80,797 16	368,330 89
	Loans	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Expenditure ...	73,417 68	75,572 15	66,812 43	79,321 69	83,164 72	378,288 67

(F.) COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF TOTAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF MUNICIPALITIES AND PUBLIC BOARDS—*continued.*

Name of Local Board.	Revenue or Expenditure.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	Total.
		Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Kurunegala	Revenue	13,975 34	15,640 81	16,402 67	21,226 98	16,007 82	83,253 62
	Expenditure ...	15,126 3	15,854 3	17,407 12	17,424 27	19,275 19	85,086 64
Puttalam	Revenue	10,237 85	10,121 88	9,351 27	9,212 54	11,275 44	50,198 98
	Expenditure ...	9,436 46	9,787 78	8,787 73	10,047 90	11,889 88	49,949 75
Chilaw	Revenue	7,860 4	8,090 54	7,958 66	8,333 22	9,533 91	41,776 37
	Expenditure ...	7,684 60	8,446 64	7,329 21	8,620 87	10,146 65	42,227 97
Matale	Revenue	6,711 11	7,873 24	7,221 17	8,065 76	8,275 37	38,146 65
	Expenditure ...	5,423 27	9,194 45	6,935 80	8,832 35	7,425 8	37,810 95
Gampola	Revenue	6,174 57	4,086 29	7,106 34	8,704 65	4,743 51	30,815 36
	Expenditure ...	4,369 98	5,028 1	7,664 25	8,490 36	4,189 22	29,741 82
Nawalapitiya	Revenue	Established in April 1896.		2,829 78	4,323 81	7,107 66	14,261 25
	Expenditure ...			2,023 20	2,148 88	4,822 94	8,995 2

Badulla	Revenue	8,733 22	11,918 59	11,884 75	11,040 43	13,717 29	57,294 28
	Loans	15,200 0	4,000 0	—	3,500 0	—	—
	Expenditure ...	19,877 79	20,153 23	13,150 94	13,643 2	11,800 50	78,625 48
Matara	Revenue	14,841 32	15,002 57	15,267 92	13,559 77	14,466 86	74,987 58
	Loans	2,000 0	—	—	—	—	—
	Expenditure ...	16,051 9	15,435 15	13,533 58	13,256 26	12,025 46	70,301 54
Ratnapura...	Revenue	8,468 51	12,918 27	7,738 8	8,205 99	9,406 29	46,737 14
	Loans	5,500 0	—	—	—	—	—
	Expenditure ...	8,147 3	12,322 54	7,172 85	7,172 48	8,275 26	43,090 16
Kegalla	Revenue	Established in 1895.	740 67	4,406 96	3,787 67	3,574 74	12,510 4
	Expenditure ...		159 0	3,412 43	3,505 55	4,498 86	11,575 84
Batticaloa...	Revenue	10,274 30	13,974 30	15,323 19	14,315 32	17,124 88	71,011 99
	Loans	—	—	—	—	3,000 0	—
	Expenditure ...	10,583 86	14,208 56	15,328 94	13,960 15	16,865 4	70,946 55
Trincomalee	Revenue	13,105 16	12,453 54	12,798 23	13,355 48	13,184 15	64,896 56
	Loans	3,000 0	3,000 0	2,000 0	—	—	—
	Expenditure ...	10,724 58	11,052 86	18,472 15	15,325 89	12,754 96	68,330 44

(F.) COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF TOTAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF MUNICIPALITIES AND PUBLIC BOARDS—*continued.*

Name of Local Board.	Revenue or Expenditure.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	Total.
		Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Negombo	Revenue	21,918 94	22,225 21	23,453 96	23,647 59	25,852 32	117,098 2
	Loans	—	—	12,000 0	—	—	—
	Expenditure ...	23,777 77	22,415 91	31,813 11	21,071 12	25,963 71	125,041 62
Kalutara	Revenue	16,128 72	12,792 38	15,637 63	13,182 53	19,587 80	77,329 6
	Expenditure ...	12,646 78	14,728 5	13,275 31	15,807 61	13,192 40	67,650 15
Nuwara Eliya (Board of Improvement from 1897).	Revenue	27,234 25	17,917 25	23,944 12	20,543 94	22,486 6	112,125 62
	Expenditure ...	24,720 62	17,515 92	21,632 78	19,125 28	20,472 68	103,467 28

(G.) DEBTS OF MUNICIPALITIES AND BOARDS, SHOWING PROVISION FOR PAYMENT.

1. The debts of the various Local Boards of the Colony at the end of the year were :—

——	Rs. c.	Rs.
Puttalam	6,160 0	on the original loan of 7,000
Badulla	26,163 92 800 0	do. 28,480 do. 1,000
Ratnapura	3,661 44	do. 5,500
Batticaloa	17,600 0 2,940 0	do. 20,000 3,000
Trincomalee	7,420 0	do. 8,000
Negombo	10,000 2	do. 12,000
Nuwara Eliya (Board of Improvement since 1897)	12,880 0 4,800 0 78,061 0 9,000 0	do. 14,000 6,000 78,061 9,000

2. These loans are repayable from the general revenue of the Boards, generally at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum on the original loan.

3. Full details as to the method of repayment in each case are given in the Blue Book return.

4. Municipalities are indebted as follows :—

——	Rs. c.	Rs.
Kandy	200,492 24	on the original loan of 250,000
Galle	63,939 88	do. 70,000

5. These loans are secured on the water-rates.

6. Colombo has no debt.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Imports.

1. The total imports and exports for the last five years were :—

Year	Imports.		Exports.	
	Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.
1894	68,682,011	16	78,939,599	2
1895	76,543,473	23	84,496,873	40
1896	77,083,587	29	85,352,428	81
1897	85,730,156	92	83,229,303	45
1898	87,525,034	97	93,801,890	13

2. The value of the imports for 1898, including specie (Rs. 10,368,023·75), aggregated Rs. 97,893,058·72.

3. The value of the imports imported into each province was—

	Rs.	c.
Western Province	79,490,499	39
Northern Province	3,347,691	6
Southern Province	3,960,565	42
Eastern Province	726,279	10
Total ...	87,525,034	97

4. Arms and ammunition accounted for Rs. 52,199·17 against Rs. 28,791·56, showing an increase of Rs. 23,407·61; the value of cotton manufactures imported fell from Rs. 6,866,099·65 in 1897 to Rs. 6,856,972·81 in 1898, the duty recovered showing a diminution of Rs. 4,710·75. The decrease, which was in unbleached goods, occurred in imports from British Colonies and foreign countries, which supplied Rs. 396,676·73 worth of goods less than in 1897. On the other hand, the imports from the United Kingdom rose by Rs. 387,549·89. The duty collected on

chemicals, dye stuffs, and tanning substances fell by Rs. 1,619·19 as against the preceding year, Rs. 1,273 of the deficit being due to smaller imports of cutch and gambier. The activity now prevailing in the building trade was demonstrated by an increase in the import of cement of 4,335 tons. Colombo imported 414,551 tons of coal and Galle 5,423 tons, against a total of 414,912 tons in 1897, made up of 411,731 tons for Colombo and 3,181 tons for Galle. The imports of Indian coal rose from 101,349 tons to 159,310 tons, due doubtless to the increasing use of Indian coal on the railway. Kerosine oil showed an increase of 143,591 gallons imported and 245,050 gallons entered for home consumption, with consequent increases of duty of Rs. 89,744·37 and Rs. 61,509·97 respectively. Food articles showed a general increase. Of rice 8,049,359 bushels were cleared for home consumption and brought in duty to the extent of Rs. 2,615,323·95, against Rs. 300,510·92 collected on other grain of all sorts. Live stock imported rose in value by Rs. 25,529, while machinery showed a decrease of Rs. 175,187·56, due probably to the wants of the tea factories having been supplied. The duty on malt liquor rose by Rs. 2,301·17 to Rs. 39,853·63; metals and metalware fell in value by Rs. 77,904·07, galvanized iron, hoop iron, and tin plates showing a considerable falling off, which is attributable to an overstocked market. Manures rose in value by Rs. 187,061·18, and oils (excluding kerosine) by Rs. 22,538·61. The import of gingelly oil more than doubled the import of 1897, but no definite reason can be assigned for this abnormal increase. Opium rose by 1,025 lb., poonac by 20,169 cwt., and the value of spices imported by Rs. 46,278·31. Spirits showed a decrease in value of Rs. 58,081·22, though an increase of 11,000 gallons in quantity. The chief fall was in the value of whisky, the poor white man's beverage. Sugar, on the other hand, showed an increase of 10 per cent. in the quantity imported. Specie showed a decrease of nearly two million rupees, the deficit being in the import of silver from India, due presumably to the tightness of money there. Silk manufactures rose in value, while tobacco and cigars declined. The value of woollen manufactures fell by Rs. 64,699·10, and of wines by Rs. 22,764.

Exports.

5. The value of exports in 1898 amounted to Rs. 95,097,692·13, distributed under the following heads:—

	Rs.	c.
Ceylon produce	83,288,352	57
Imports re-exported	788,467	56
Specie	1,295,802	0
Coal for use of steamers ...	9,725,070	0
Total ...	95,097,692	13

CEYLON, 1898.

6. Ceylon produce exported increased by Rs. 7,012,878·95, aided by the phenomenal advance in the value of plumbago and larger exports of copperah, cacao, and tea. Imports exported dwindled by Rs. 321,421·97 owing to quarantine regulations necessitated by the occurrence of plague in Bombay and Calcutta, which prevented the free intercourse with the Colony of vessels less than ten days out from an infected port. The value of coal exported for use of steamers rose by Rs. 1,700,000, while specie declined by about Rs. 500,000.

7. The value of exports to the United Kingdom rose from Rs. 51,274,207·12 to Rs. 52,530,107·04. Exports to British Colonies fell from Rs. 17,919,544·09 to Rs. 16,218,067·73, while exports to foreign countries rose from Rs. 8,480,321·64 to Rs. 16,624,447·36, the increase being due to the institution of direct lines of steamers to the United States and Russia. This is shown by the fact that the direct export of tea to those countries rose by 2,084,437 lb. and 1,093,896 lb. respectively, while the total direct imports increased in the case of Russia to almost ten-fold and in the case of the United States to nearly two-fold the figures of the previous year. Copperah showed a rise in export from 50,000 cwt. to 115,000 cwt., and citronella oil exports increased by one-third. The export of tea rose from 114,466,318 lb. to 122,395,518 lb.

8. It is to be noted that in the Blue Book return foreign goods coming through London and transhipped on to a British vessel have been classified as goods from the United Kingdom; and *vice versâ*, tea shipped from Ceylon to America or Russia-in-Asia *viâ* China is classified as an export to China.

(B.) MINES, MANUFACTURES, AND FISHERIES.

1. The principal mining industry is plumbago, the profits arising from which are now very large. Mining operations are not at present carried on on scientific principles, many of the smaller mines, or rather pits, being abandoned if water is met with. With the rise in value of this product and the advice which a geological expert, lent by the Indian Government, will be able to give, improved methods of mining will doubtless be followed ere long. The industry is now flourishing, but great development may be expected, and capitalists are evincing an eager desire to obtain land for prospecting purposes.

2. In Sabaragamuwa gem mining is carried on in 247 pits, but it is not easy to ascertain the profits arising from this pursuit.

3. Manufactures embrace cloth, salt, oil, the numerous products of the cocoanut (such as copperah, coir, &c.), bricks and tiles, baskets, tobacco, jewellery, carpentry, &c.

4. The manufacture of salt is controlled by the Government, which has a monopoly of the sale.

5. The products of the cocoanut represent a large proportion of the total manufactures, and as the area under cocoanuts increases, and more European capital is invested in the industry, these products are likely to secure more attention in their manufacture, which is at present carried on in a somewhat primitive style.

6. *Fisheries.*—In the Northern, Eastern, and North-Western Provinces the fisheries are of great importance; but much could be done to develop them were capital invested in good fish-curing establishments, the produce of native curing yards leaving much to be desired at present. In the Northern Province the fisheries include chank and bêche-de-mer fisheries, and also the pearl fishery, which has not been held for some years past owing to a dearth of oysters.

7. It is anticipated that the extension of the railway to the north will materially aid in developing these fisheries.

(C.) Agricultural Industries and Botanical Stations.

1. The chief agricultural products are paddy, tea, cocoanuts, cacao, and tobacco.

2. The area under tea and cocoanuts continues to expand, and the cultivation of the latter yields an excellent return to those who can wait, the price realized being from Rs. 30 to 40 per 1,000 nuts, while little expenditure is required after the trees have come into bearing.

3. Cacao is also a profitable product, but has unfortunately a remarkable attraction for thieves, as the pods are easily removed from the bushes.

4. Tobacco, which does well in the Northern, Eastern, and North-Western Provinces, is a somewhat delicate plant. Although the quality is good, the local growers have not yet succeeded in having it manufactured to meet the taste of the average European.

CEYLON, 1898.

5. The hope that india-rubber might soon be added to the list of staple products has unfortunately been falsified.

6. *Botanical Stations.*—Of these the chief is at Peradeniya, where much useful work is done in introducing new plants and by publication of circulars containing instructions for the cure or prevention of disease and blight, &c., and for the identification of the numerous insect pests which are the bane of the cultivator. There is also a garden at Hakgala and some smaller experimental gardens in various parts of the Island. The latter have proved useful as centres from which to supply the villagers with new plants of economic value, and their influence is shown by the numerous village horticultural shows which have been held in recent years.

(D.) LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

1. In 1898, 16,279 acres of land were alienated by sale, by grant at half the improved value, or by certificate against the right of the Crown.

2. In addition, 4,258 acres were sold under Sir Henry Ward's Minute, *i.e.*, on payment of one-fourth the purchase money and fees, the balance three-fourths being payable in three annual instalments. This easy mode of sale is confined to irrigable lands.

3. The 16,279 acres alienated realized Rs. 496,549, or say Rs. 30·50 per acre.

4. It is satisfactory to note that while more land was sold than in 1898 fewer plans had to be supplied by the Survey Department, as a good many blocks which had been surveyed in former years were disposed of.

5. The price realized for land has risen and will probably rise higher, and in the districts where plumbago is known to exist a keen competition may be expected in view of the abnormal increase in the value of that mineral.

6. The Survey Department has been very fully occupied in surveying land in connection with settlements under the Waste Lands Ordinance, with forest demarcations, and irrigation work.

7. Irrigation surveys of considerable importance were carried out in the Eastern Province, where the restoration of several large and important schemes is engaging the attention of the Central Irrigation Board.

(E.) Shipping.

1. The shipping returns for the Island show a decrease of 459 in the number of vessels and an increase of 377,894 tons in tonnage:—

—	1897.		1898.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Entered	3,771	3,367,415	3,551	3,605,706
Cleared	3,785	3,337,332	3,546	3,476,935
	7,556	6,704,747	7,097	7,082,641

2. The number and tonnage of steamers and sailing vessels entered inwards and cleared outwards in 1898, exclusive of those calling to coal and for orders at Colombo and Galle, are shown below:—

—	Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Colombo ... Inwards	1,451	2,914,328	590	61,950	2,041	2,976,278
Colombo ... Outwards	1,292	2,518,256	601	63,203	1,893	2,581,459
Colombo ... Total	2,743	5,432,584	1,191	125,153	3,934	5,557,737
Galle ... ... Inwards	141	265,382	17	1,135	158	266,517
Galle ... ... Outwards	136	265,070	17	1,135	153	266,205
Galle ... ... Total	277	530,452	34	2,270	311	532,722

CEYLON, 1898.

3. The number of steamers calling at Colombo rose by 8 and the sailing ships decreased by 87, while 57 fewer steamers and 16 fewer sailing vessels put in at Galle as compared with 1897.

4. The decreases are due partly to the effect of precautionary measures against plague, but principally to the tendency to augment the tonnage of modern steamers. This tendency is well shown at (*a*) in the following table.

5. The nationality of vessels inwards and outwards during the year 1898 for the Island is thus made up :—

——	Entered Inwards.		Cleared Outwards.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British	1,486	2,707,068	1,462	2,591,290
Colonial	1,776	169,075	1,800	171,243
American	1	2,096	1	2,096
Austrian	23	54,563	23	54,563
French	89	202,003	88	200,276
German	88	281,841	86	274,920
Japanese	28	90,040	27	84,352
Maldivian	28	1,543	28	1,398
Russian	21	73,663	20	72,783
Danish	1	2,626	1	2,626
Dutch	2	3,022	2	3,022
Spanish	7	17,663	7	17,663
Norwegian... ...	1	503	1	503

(*a*) Compared with the years 1894, 1895, 1896, and 1897, the result inwards and outwards is as follows :—

Inwards.

1894.—A decrease of 300 vessels, but an increase of 395,499 tons.
1895.—A decrease of 291 vessels, but an increase of 274,936 tons.
1896.—A decrease of 402 vessels, but an increase of 79,383 tons.
1897.—A decrease of 220 vessels, but an increase of 238,291 tons.

Outwards.

1894.—A decrease of 277 vessels, but an increase of 321,289 tons.
1895.—A decrease of 280 vessels, but an increase of 274,936 tons.
1896.—A decrease of 437 vessels, and a decrease of 76,420 tons.
1897.—A decrease of 239 vessels, but an increase of 139,603 tons.

III.—LEGISLATION.

The most important Ordinances passed were No. 2 of 1898, by which the military contribution payable by the Colony was fixed at 9½ per cent. of the Colonial revenue; No. 3 of 1898, giving police magistrates in certain cases power to prohibit convicted persons from carrying knives without a license; No. 7 of 1898, putting an export duty on arrack; No. 9 of 1898, limiting the liability of Government pilots; No. 10 of 1898, regulating the branding, sale, and transfer of cattle; No. 15 of 1898, consolidating and amending the procedure of the Courts of Criminal Judicature; No. 19 of 1898, securing in certain cases the right of property in telegraphic press messages.

IV.—EDUCATION.

PRIMARY EDUCATION: MAIN FEATURES AND NUMBER OF SCHOOLS.

1. The total number of scholars in Ceylon was 185,035, or 6 per cent. of the total population.

2. The total number of Government schools was 479 with 46,279 scholars, showing an increase of 4 schools and 1,166 scholars.

3. There were 1,220 grant-in-aid schools with 103,951 scholars, and 2,330 unaided schools with an attendance of 34,805.

4. The cost to Government of each scholar was Rs. 5·32 in Government schools and Rs. 3·51 in grant-in-aid schools.

5. The cost of each pupil in the Royal College was Rs. 69·60, in the Technical College Rs. 307·06, in the School of Agriculture Rs. 675·25, and in grant-in-aid industrial schools Rs. 25·89.

6. Of the Government schools, 4 were English, 8 English primary and middle, and 467 vernacular.

7. Of the grant-in-aid schools, 54 were English, 72 English primary and middle, and 1,094 vernacular.

8. Higher instruction is provided in the Royal College at Colombo and the Technical College. In the latter instruction is given in civil engineering, mechanical engineering, and electrical engineering.

9. The University Scholarship examination and the Cambridge local examinations are the chief tests of the highest work of the schools.

10. There were 25 industrial schools in receipt of Government aid, with an attendance of 1,193.

11. In Colombo there is a School of Agriculture, to which is attached the Government dairy.

12. It has now been arranged to assign a certain number of appointments in Government Departments to students at the Technical College, but the scheme has not yet come into full operation.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) HOSPITALS AND (B.) ASYLUMS.

1. During the year 64 hospitals and asylums were in operation.

2. In the civil and lying-in hospitals 34,352 patients were treated, in the field hospitals 3,643, in the immigrant hospitals 2,473, and in the district hospitals 12,134.

3. The Lunatic Asylum at Colombo received 104 patients during the year, and the Leper Asylum 127.

4. In all 53,564 patients were treated, of whom 5,982 died.

(C.) POOR HOUSES.

There are no poor houses in Ceylon. The Government grants a monthly dole to a number of deserving paupers, and the Friend-in-Need Society relieves many others.

(D.) REFORMATORIES.

The industrial school at Maggona serves as a reformatory for juvenile offenders.

(E.) SAVINGS BANKS.

1. The Ceylon Savings Bank, Colombo, had 22,156 depositors, with a sum of Rs. 3,374,362 to their credit. The deposits for the year were Rs. 1,341,737.

2. The Post Office Savings Bank had 43,003 depositors, with Rs. 1,099,019·87 to their credit. During the year Rs. 693,181·25 was deposited.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POLICE.

1. The strength of the force was 1,691, including officers, and cost Rs. 690,091·22. During the year a Harbour Police was established at Galle to enforce quarantine and to isolate the plague hospital if necessary.

2. In a few cases punitive police stations were established temporarily under Ordinance No. 15 of 1896.

3. Crime statistics supplied by the police point to a decrease of crime in all provinces except the Northern and Eastern, in both of which there was a slight increase of thefts of cattle and prædial produce.

4. The total number of murders and homicides (125) was the lowest within the last five years.

5. Cases of grievous hurt fell from 657 in 1897 to 500 in 1898.

6. Burglaries decreased from 719 to 638.

7. There were 17 convictions for breaches of plague regulations.

(B.) PRISONS.

1. The total admissions into jail were 7,051, against 7,001 in the preceding year.

2. The proportion of convictions and commitments for trial to offences reported was as follows:—

—	1896.	1897.	1898.
Offences reported... ...	18,071	20,800	15,328
Convictions	9,397	13,023	10,674

and shows a satisfactory advance.

3. The daily average in prison of convicted persons was 2,524.

4. The number of road defaulters imprisoned was only 379 against 500 in 1897, a gratifying feature in the prison report. Of these 379, 119 were released on paying the usual fine of Rs. 10 in default of payment of which they had been incarcerated. Of the balance (260) 20 were discharged on medical certificate and 30 pardoned.

CEYLON, 1898.

5. Under the Habitual Criminals' Ordinance 157 were convicted, against 73 in 1897.

6. There were 10 escapes from jail, but the escaped prisoner was in every instance recaptured.

7. The deaths in jail were 111, against 89 in 1897.

8. The health of the prisoners in Welikada and Mutwal was not quite satisfactory, pneumonia being somewhat prevalent.

9. Eighty-seven prisoners suffered disciplinary corporal punishment.

10. There was a decrease in Sinhalese and an increase in Tamil prisoners.

(C.) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

1. The number of cases instituted in police courts was 55,879, in which 73,524 persons were accused.

2. Of this latter total 36,471 were acquitted, 34,755 were summarily convicted, and 2,298 committed for trial.

3. In the Superior Courts 1,327 judgments were entered for the Crown and 1,169 for the prisoners.

4. Of 74 persons committed for murder 29 were convicted, while out of 37 committed for manslaughter 32 were found guilty.

5. In the police courts, of 2,549 persons charged with cattle stealing 2,084 were summarily acquitted and 70 committed for trial.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POPULATION.

1. The population, which was 3,008,466 according to the census of 1891, was estimated at 3,448,752 in 1898.

2. During the year 131,620 births were registered and 90,256 deaths, giving a birth and death rate of 38·2 and 26·2 respectively, against 36·9 and 23·2 in the preceding year. The increase in the death-rate is due to on epidemic of malarial fever which prevailed throughout the Island, especially in the Northern and North-Western Provinces.

(B.) PUBLIC HEALTH.

1. There were three slight outbreaks of cholera in the Northern Province. During the first 67 died, while in the second 47 succumbed to the disease. In the North-Central Province 72 died of cholera, in the Western 19, and in the Central 29.

2. There were only 54 cases of small-pox with 12 fatalities.

3. The general health of the Island was, on the whole, satisfactory.

4. Thanks to the ample precautions taken, the Island escaped a visitation of the plague.

(C.) SANITATION.

1. The general sanitation of the Colony and of the chief towns is fairly satisfactory.

2. Of the chief towns Colombo compares favourably with many eastern cities. The drainage of Kandy, Jaffna, Kurunegala, and Badulla is defective, while Galle is the most insanitary of the municipalities.

3. In connection with the plague precautions a camp of observation for immigrant coolies was established at Ragama, which has accommodation for 3,000 persons, and at the close of the year the cooly route from India along the north road was closed.

4. The Pilgrimages Ordinance has enabled the Government to enforce sanitary measures during pilgrimages.

(D.) CLIMATE.

(1) *Rainfall.*

The rainfall varied from 156·70 inches on 229 days in Ratnapura to 37·53 inches on 78 days in Mannar.

(2) *Temperature.*

The temperature averaged 82·3° at Jaffna and 59·7° at Hakgala.

The mean daily range of temperature was highest at Anuradhapura (17·2°) and lowest at Galle (5·8°). The mean daily range at Colombo was 12·4°.

(3) *Direction and Force of Wind.*

In January, February, and March the direction of the wind is, generally speaking, north-east, and from April to October north-west.

The average movement of the air in miles per diem varied from 243·6 at Jaffna to 17·3 at Kurunegaa.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

1. The revenue was Rs. 963,000·33, against Rs. 979,435·37 in 1897, in which year the receipts were increased by a payment of over one lac of rupees on account of sea conveyance of mails for 1895, 1896, and 1897.

2. Inland money orders showed an advance of Rs. 351,302·57, and Indian money orders an advance of Rs. 967,743·91.

3. The total balance to credit of depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank rose by Rs. 24,853.

4. Telegraph receipts increased by Rs. 20,036·32, due chiefly to the popularity of the 25-cent telegram, which is probably the cheapest in the world.

5. Four telegraph offices, three post offices, and six receiving offices were opened during the year.

6. The limit of insured value on parcels to the United Kingdom was raised from £50 to £120 from 1st December.

7. Fifty-four miles of telegraph were added during the year, and the business of the Telegraph Department showed considerable expansion.

8. The telephone branch also worked fairly satisfactorily, considering the constant interruption which must be expected during the monsoon and the deleterious effect of damp salt breezes on the wires.

IX.—MILITARY FORCE AND EXPENDITURE.

1. The total force of regular troops was 1,668, including officers, and the volunteers numbered 1,224.

2. The expenditure was :—For regular troops, Rs. 1,788,066 ; for volunteers, Rs. 112,910·23 ; total, Rs. 1,900,976·23.

3. There is no militia or semi-military Colonial force.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

(1) IMPORTANT EVENTS.

1. Perhaps the most important event of the year was the introduction of Imperial penny postage.

2. The successful efforts of Government to keep out the dreaded plague were an event of vital importance, or, perhaps more correctly, the prevention of a dire event the consequences of which it would be rash to attempt to calculate.

(2) PUBLIC WORKS.

The total expenditure was Rs. 4,190,003·03, including Rs. 410,228·32 on account of personal emoluments. The total road mileage of the Colony is now 3,570 miles, of which 2,500 are metalled or track metalled, 579 gravelled, and 491 natural roads. The average cost of upkeep in 1898 was Rs. 377 per mile, showing an increase of Rs. 22 over the rate for 1897.

A beginning was made with the duplication of the 20-inch water main from Labugama to Colombo, and by the end of the year about one mile had been laid on the section Wagga to Hunupitiya.

Good progress was made with the construction of the new passenger jetty at Colombo.

The Nuwara Eliya waterworks scheme, which includes the laying of over 6½ miles of pipes, was taken in hand for the Board of Improvement, and an officer of the Public Works Department was seconded to secure preliminary information required for the preparation of plans and estimates for the improved sanitation of Kandy.

CEYLON, 1898.

The Government factory expended Rs. 408,405·75 and turned out 136 iron bridges, besides doing much useful work for the Railway, Irrigation, and other Departments.

The work on the harbour was successfully carried on, the expenditure amounting to Rs. 1,700,398·12. The north-east breakwater was practically completed for a distance of 870 feet from the shore.

The railway continued to prosper and earned Rs. 7,549,620 against an expenditure of Rs. 3,605,944, showing a profit of Rs. 3,943,676, equal to a dividend of 7·43 per cent. on the original cost. The net earnings, after deducting expenses and payment of interest, yielded 4·68 per cent. on the capital cost. The extension of the railway to the north and to the Kelani Valley will give that department an even more prominent position than it already holds.

(3) IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION.

During the year 80,238 immigrants arrived in Ceylon from India, and 16,347 emigrants left Ceylon for India. Of these the great majority are employed as coolies on tea estates.

(4) FUTURE PROSPECTS OF TRADE.

The future prospects of trade are, in the light of the following table of imports and exports, excluding specie, most favourable :—

Year.	Amount.	Year.	Amount.
	Rs. c.		Rs. c.
1887	83,889,572 0	1893... ...	139,237,891 0
1888	92,607,045 0	1894... ...	147,621,610 0
1889	100,269,274 0	1895... ...	161,040,346 0
1890	106,651,504 0	1896... ...	162,436,016 0
1891	117,342,259 0	1897... ...	168,959,460 0
1892	123,857,835 0	1898... ...	181,326,925 0

as it shows that trade has expanded enormously since 1887, rising in value from Rs. 83,889,572 to Rs. 181,326,925, and there is no ground for apprehension that this elasticity will diminish.

(5) Suitability of Climate for Europeans.

The climate is well suited for Europeans, but the labour conditions of the Island are not favourable for white labour. Manual labour is practically an impossibility for Europeans, whose duties are confined to the supervision of labour.

(6) Rates of Wages and Cost of Living.

The rate of wages for prædial labourers varies from 25 to 50 cents per diem ; 37½ cents is the general rate. Domestic servants earn from Rs. 10 to Rs. 20 per mensem, the average wage being about Rs. 12. Trade employees earn from 50 cents to Re. 1·50 a day. The cost of living varies greatly in different parts of the Island, being lowest in the Northern and Eastern Provinces and highest in Colombo, where house rent is a serious item to rich and poor. The ordinary villager can probably live in fair comfort for Rs. 5 to Rs. 6 a month.

(7) Openings for Investment of Capital.

Cocoanut planting offers a good investment for capital where immediate return can be dispensed with. In the near future plumbago mining will probably attract capital, while tea still continues to be a favourite field for investors.

(8) Social Condition of the People.

The social condition of the people is good. Their taxation is extremely light and the cost of living relatively cheap ; and with the Island divided into a large number of small administrative districts their wants receive prompt attention from Government officials. Crime is still too prevalent, but it arises generally from hasty temper, and as education becomes more widely diffused and better assimilated there is reason to hope that this drawback to the welfare of the people will disappear.

(9) General Condition of the Colony.

The general condition of the Colony may be regarded as one of great prosperity.

J. J. Thorburn,
Assistant Colonial Secretary.

Colombo,
August 11th, 1899.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE. E.C.

1899.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 257.

COCOS-KEELING AND CHRISTMAS ISLANDS.

REPORT ON THE ANNUAL VISIT FOR 1898.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 216.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

February 1899.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C., and
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1899.

C.—9046–25.] *Price* 1*d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1896–97
227	Leeward Islands	1896
228	Bermuda	1897
229	Gambia	,,
230	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
231	Barbados	,,
232	Lagos	,,
233	St. Vincent	,,
234	Sierra Leone	,,
235	Falkland Islands	,,
236	Straits Settlements	,,
237	British New Guinea	1896–97
238	Bahamas	1897
239	St. Lucia	,,
240	St. Helena	,,
241	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
242	British Honduras	,,
243	Malta	,,
244	Fiji	,,
245	Hong Kong	,,
246	Leeward Islands	,,
247	Grenada	,,
248	Gibraltar	,,
249	Gold Coast	,,
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues	,,
251	British Solomon Islands	1897–98
252	Seychelles	1897
253	Labuan	,,
254	Ceylon	,,
255	Basutoland	1897–98
256	Newfoundland	1896–97

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 257.

COCOS-KEELING AND CHRISTMAS ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1897 *see* No. 216.)

ACTING-GOVERNOR SIR J. A. SWETTENHAM to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Singapore,
15th December 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward six copies of a report by Mr. R. J. Farrer, of the Straits Civil Service, on his visit to Christmas and Cocos-Keeling Islands.

2. It appears from his report that no phosphate has been exported from Christmas Island since Mr. Justice Leach's visit in 1897, but it is to be hoped that Mr. Ross's visit to England will settle the policy of the company and enable the phosphate industry to be developed within a reasonable time.

3. Unless, however, some arrangements can be made for increasing the supply of labour, the development of the resources of Christmas Island must necessarily be slow.

4. It is satisfactory to find that neither on Christmas or Cocos Island were there any complaints made to the Commissioner, and that the inhabitants appear to be contented with the régime under which they live.

5. The indifference shown by the people to the advantages of education is hardly to be wondered at, but it must be disappointing to Mr. Ross that his efforts to maintain the school have proved so far a failure.

6. Although the number of Cocos-born inhabitants has slightly increased, the population remains nearly stationary.

7. It was unfortunate that Mr. Ross should have been absent when Mr. Farrer visited Cocos Island. Of the hospitality of the Ross family Mr. Farrer speaks warmly, and also expresses his gratitude to Commander Winnington-Ingram and the officers of H.M.S. "Daphne" which conveyed him to the Islands.

I have, &c.,

J. A. SWETTENHAM.

1576*—75—1/99 Wt 21935 D & S—5 (B)

Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands, 1898.

REPORT ON VISIT TO CHRISTMAS AND COCOS-KEELING ISLANDS.

Bukit Mertajam,

31st October 1898.

Sir,

I have the honour to report that, in accordance with your instructions, I embarked on September 4th on board the M. M. Str. "La Seyne" and proceeded to Batavia, where I joined H.M.S. "Daphne," Commander C. Winnington-Ingram, on September 6th.

2. Owing to the festivities connected with the coronation of Her Majesty the Queen of the Netherlands, and the consequent dislocation of the labour market, we were unable to obtain a proper supply of coal before September 9th, on which day we sailed from Tanjong Priok at 2 p.m. for Christmas Island.

3. After an uncomfortable passage, with the wind nearly straight ahead, we reached our destination on September 11th at 5 p.m. and anchored in Flying Fish Cove.

4. Mr. Andrew Ross, who is still in charge of the Island, came off to meet us, and to give Commander Winnington-Ingram the benefit of his local knowledge of this peculiar anchorage.

5. In the cove were lying at anchor the yawl "Tweed" and the yacht "Clunies Ross," both of which had recently arrived from the Cocos Islands, the former with Mr. Ross on board *en route* for England.

6. Commander Winnington-Ingram and myself landed and called on Mr. Ross. I delivered to him the presents entrusted to my charge. He expressed himself as much pleased with them, and especially with the box of seeds and Forbes's "Wanderings." We were able to give Mr. Ross the first news of the outer world that he had received since May. We returned on board H.M.S. "Daphne" for the night.

7. On the 12th we landed, accompanied by several of the officers (on pleasure bent), and after some conversation proceeded to walk up Phosphate Hill with Messrs. George and Andrew Ross.

8. The fertility of the Island has been so fully described in former reports that little need be said on this head. Mr. Ross's only complaint against the soil was that it was too fertile, and enabled some plants, such as the papayah, to multiply until they became a nuisance. The young coconut trees which are planted in ground formed of fragments of coral, and are growing along the shore of Flying Fish Cove within four or five yards of high-water mark, look remarkably healthy and seem in no way affected by the violence of the north-west monsoon, which is said to

prevail here for six months in the year. In this respect they form a striking contrast with the trees growing on the south-east and east shores of the Cocos Atoll, which are, without exception, stunted and deformed through the violence of the wind.

9. Mr. Ross informed me that no phosphate had been exported since the visit of Mr. Justice Leach in 1897. The truth of this statement seems to be conclusively proved by the following circumstances :—The beds of phosphate are situated at an elevation of about 1,000 feet, at a distance of some two miles from the shore. They are reached by a cutting through the jungle, which is ended at its lower extremity by a shoot perhaps 200 feet high. The clearing has been completed as far as the deposits, but for the greater part of its course is encumbered with logs and trunks of trees which have not yet been destroyed. These obstacles to locomotion entirely do away with the idea that any quantity of phosphates could be brought down to the sea with a limited number of coolies as the only means of transport. Secondly, the phosphate on reaching the lower end of the clearing would have to be dumped down the shoot on to the small level space below. This proceeding would inevitably leave its traces in the form of dust and débris of phosphate at the bottom of the shoot, and of these I could see no sign.

10. Mr. Ross's plan for working the phosphates is to construct a light railway worked by a wire hawser along the line which has been cleared. With this object in view the line has been laid out with three angles so as to give the required gradients. The phosphate being brought down in trucks to the end of the rails would be tipped down the shoot to a level space at the bottom, where it would be stored. The work of getting and storing would be pressed on during the prevalence of the north-west monsoon, when it is impossible for ships to remain at anchor near the island. During the rest of the year the loading of the deposits would be carried on by means of an artificial shoot descending from the edge of the cliff to the level of the ship's deck.

11. The dumping ground is an elevated plain about 200 yards long ending in a cliff which descends sheer into the sea. This cliff is about 40 feet high. It is, therefore, necessary for the carrying out of Mr. Ross's plan that some sort of pier should be constructed both for the support of the shoot and for the mooring of the ships.

12. One of the reasons for Mr. Ross's impending visit to England is to arrive at an understanding on the subject of this pier. Mr. Ross is in favour of a wooden jetty, the framework only of which would be left in position during the north-west monsoon. The materials for such a work are ready at hand on the Island. The London Directors, on the other hand, wish the pier to be of steel. A pier of this material, Mr. Ross maintains, would be very expensive, and could not stand the tremendous blows of the sea during the bad season, and, further, could not, if damaged, be repaired from local resources.

COCOS-KEELING AND CHRISTMAS ISLANDS, 1898.

13. Mr. Ross has a further point of disagreement with his co-Directors, who, I understand, tempted by the present high price of phosphates, have sent an emissary to the East with orders to charter a vessel immediately. There is, however, no phosphate ready for loading, and Mr. Ross, not unnaturally considering his recent losses, wishes to keep down the expenditure to the necessary minimum until the business begins to be reproductive.

14. It is greatly to be hoped that Mr. Ross's present visit will finally settle the policy of the Company, since the existing state of uncertainty prevents the general development of the island besides impeding the progress of the phosphate industry.

15. Apart from these differences of opinion, the chief obstacle to be overcome by the Company is the difficulty of obtaining a sufficient supply of labour. The number of coolies that Mr. Ross has been able to obtain from Java during the past year is only 14. In addition to these he has introduced eight new Cocos boys. These, together with the nine Cocos boys left from 1897, give a total of 31 men for all kinds of labour. Mr. Andrew Ross, however, informed me that the greatest number of coolies employed in any one day on works connected with the phosphates was 16. The progress of the works cannot, therefore, be rapid under existing circumstances.

16. In spite of the scarcity of labour the clearing has been completed right up to the phosphate beds. About a quarter of a mile of it has been stubbed and levelled and is ready for ballast laying, while another quarter of a mile is in process of being levelled. At this part the bed which is being levelled is formed of marble, so that the work is of a very troublesome character.

17. The present gang of Bantamese coolies arrived in September 1897. They are on a three years' agreement and receive 8*f.** a month, with salt and seven bamboos of rice per week free. Their hours of work are from 6 to 11 a.m., and from 1 to 4 p.m. Each of these men received an advance of 50*f.* on engagement. All of them have repaid this advance, and some have already 15*f.* to their credit. For these facts I am indebted to Mr. Andrew Ross. Unfortunately, an examination of the books was impossible, owing to Mr. Wilkinson's absence with the keys of the store, at the time when I asked to be allowed to examine the books. This was at the close of my visit, so that there was no time to send for the keys.

18. Mr. Ross stated that each Bantamese cost him on an average 30*f.* a month, including transport, &c., but not supervision. Taking the value of the free rations at 5*f.* per mensem (paragraph 49 of Mr. Trevenen's report), the incidental expenses would amount according to this statement to 17*f.* per mensem, a sum which seems extraordinarily high considering that though drugs may be a slight expense medical advice costs nothing.

* COLONIAL OFFICE NOTE: The sign *f.* signifies guilder. The Dutch guilder is worth about one shilling and eightpence. The Cocos currency guilder, which is a sheepskin note, is worth five-sixths of a Dutch guilder.

19. From Mr. Ross's remarks I gather that the Bantamese are a troublesome lot and need careful handling. They are under the supervision of the Cocos boys, each of the latter being told off to keep an eye on one man. Mr. Ross's view that the absence of crime is due to fear of consequences, and not to the natural piety of the men, is strongly borne out by the story that Mr. Wilkinson, the Engineer, had a narrow escape of being murdered or seriously injured by one of the Bantamese during the past year.

20. The permanent population at the present moment is as follows :—

Mr. and Mrs. Wilkinson and daughter ...	3
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Ross and son	3
Female servants	2
Male servant	1
Cocos boys	17
Wives of Cocos boys	2
Children of do.	2
Bantamese coolies	14
Total ...	44

There have been no births or deaths during the last 14 months.

21. Mr. Ross stated that he had offered to bring the wives of the Bantamese, but that the men thought it not worth while to bring them for so short a time as three years. He added that he would be glad if there were more women on the Island, since their presence contributed to the contentment of the men.

22. It is Mr. Ross's policy to increase as much as possible the number of Cocos boys on the Island, for the reason that their living here prevents those early marriages to which he attributes the physical degeneration of the Cocos breed. (Of the 17 "boys" now on the Island 15 are from 12 to 15 years of age, the remaining two being middle-aged foremen.) The labour needs of the Cocos Islands are, however, his first consideration, and this prevents his removing Cocos boys in large numbers.

23. Since Mr. Justice Leach's visit the source of the waterfall has been discovered to be a stream flowing without much variation of volume all through the year. I was informed that the water had been examined by Mr. Andrews (of the British Museum) and pronounced to be of excellent quality. I was unable to obtain a sample, owing to the shortness of the time at my disposal. The distance of the stream from the anchorage makes it useless for the present, but in view of the probable development of the Island in the future, the discovery of a supply of good water at a distance from the shore becomes an important fact.

24. A second anchorage has been found during the last few months. This is situated on the south-east side of the Island across which a clearing has been made, so as to form a connection with it. It can be used when the Flying Fish Cove anchorage

is closed, and only then—that is, when the wind is westerly of north-east and south-west. The new anchorage may prove a material factor in the prosperity of the Island in a few years' time, since the bottom gives a much better holding ground than that at the old anchorage, being of braincoral with a waved surface and gentle slope outwards, as compared with a violent incline downwards and a bottom in which ledges of sharp rock are too common for the safety of the moorings. Its importance will, I believe, depend on the agricultural development of the Island, not upon the export of phosphates.

25. Towards the end of my visit I had the coolies collected and tried to find out whether there were any grievances of which they might wish to complain. It could not of course be expected that they would unbosom themselves to an entire stranger, but from the heartiness with which they made answer "All is well," I was convinced that they felt at all events no serious discontent with their surroundings.

26. The Bantamese are mostly of a villainous appearance. The Cocos boys on the other hand struck me as looking stupid, and indifferent to their surroundings. A look of dulness is perhaps only a natural result of the monotony of their lives, and of the reduction of the struggle for existence to near vanishing point, but I was told that they sing and dance with much energy in the evenings, while their leisure hours of daylight are occupied by the sailing of toy-boats.

27. The Bantamese occupy one large hut, which is almost filled up by their beds and mosquito nets. The hut, however, is clean, and the air inside it fresh, the side walls being made of the mid-rib of the coconut leaf which has the merits of being easily cleaned, and of smelling sweet (at least while it is fairly new), while the air can pass freely through the interstices.

28. Owing to the immaturity of the coconut trees toddy is, strictly speaking, not yet to be obtained. The toddy drinkers are therefore driven to procuring a substitute from the katapang (a kind of filbert nut), a practice which, I understand, obtains also in Malacca.

29. The rats show no signs of dying out. While sitting in Mr. Ross's house in the evening we were informed that certain very violent chatterings were the objurgations of a rat disputing over a ripe fruit with one of the large bats peculiar to the Island. The contending parties often come to blows, or rather bites, with the result that both of them fall from the branch where hangs the prize. Mr. Ross's dogs have learnt this fact, and now on hearing a dispute scurry off and post themselves under the branch occupied by the combatants to wait for their fall.

30. A striking feature of the Island is the obesity of its *ferœ naturæ*. Rats, bats, and boobies all go to the melting pot and produce each their own kind of oil. The size and fatness of the bats may be judged from the fact that only six are required to

make one soda-water bottle full of oil. The large crabs, too, provide an oil, extracted without any boiling down process, which is mainly used for the preservation of metal work.

31. The boobies, Mr. Andrew Ross stated, make a pie equal to the finest beefsteak. It may be, however, that Mr. Ross's patriotism has blunted his palate, for his statement was not borne out by those of the visitors who were privileged to taste this rare dish.

32. The healthiness of the Island has been often mentioned: two instances will here suffice, viz., the little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wilkinson, who arrived in very poor health, apparently a weakly baby, and is now healthy and vigorous; and a kid left some time ago for the sake of its health which has grown into a fine she-goat.

33. Owing to the fertility of the Island and its tendency to encourage any objectionable form of life, Mr. Ross is afraid of experimenting in the planting of grass seeds. He has, I think, apprehensions that a seed or two of the dreaded "lalang" may have crept into the seed box.

34. The fish that are to be caught are few both in kind and number, snappers, rock-cod, and a few varieties of coral-feeding fish being the only kinds obtainable. This scarcity is probably due to the absence of any shallow water which could form a breeding ground for the adults or a nursery for the young.

35. Mr. Andrews, whose impending arrival was mentioned in last year's report, left some time ago for the Cocos Islands. According to Mr. Andrew Ross, the meteorological instruments received some damage while in his keeping, so that the records are no longer kept. I am therefore unable to give the usual table.

36. Shortly before our departure the sportsmen returned with numbers of Pergam pigeons. These birds are no less tame than in former years.

37. About 4 p.m. on the 12th September we sailed for the Cocos Islands, with the wind on the port quarter.

COCOS ISLANDS.

1. After a passage of 66 hours, uneventful except for the discomfort of the last 24, we arrived at the Cocos Islands at 10 a.m. on September 15th, and anchored in the usual place under the guidance of Mr. William Ross.

2. After an early luncheon Commander Winnington-Ingram and myself landed. We were most hospitably received by the ladies of the Islands, and lodged in the bachelors' quarters.

3. Mr. Sidney Ross, the heir apparent, was engaged on West Island in superintending the storage of copra, and was unable to return until the next day.

COCOS-KEELING AND CHRISTMAS ISLANDS, 1898.

4. In the afternoon we walked through the Cocos village which preserves that air of cleanliness and prosperity on which comment has so often been made. The men were away at work, we had therefore no opportunity of conversing with them that evening. The children struck me as very numerous, possibly owing to their being so much in evidence with their toy-boat races along the shore.

5. The next morning, accompanied by one of the officers, I walked through the Bantamese village, and met one grumbler, whom I suspect to be the man mentioned in Mr. Egerton's report, his grievances being of exactly the same nature, except that the number of children had increased. His complaints were, in brief, that he could not save money to enable him to return to Java, and that he had no time to catch fish. Of these statements the first is disproved by a glance at the list of wages, the second by the fact that we found him engaged in smoking a pipe on his door-step at 7.30 a.m. In the course of our walk we met a girl who was suffering from some kind of paralysis of the legs, which she told me came on after child-birth. We comforted her with the assurance that the ship's doctor would visit her. With these two exceptions, the people seemed healthy and contented.

6. Later in the morning we took a second walk through the main village and spoke to a large number of persons, mostly of the female sex, the men being at work. Among others we interviewed the daughter of Pa Besar, deceased (herself, I understood, a great-grandmother), a typical instance of contented old age, who presented us with roses and polished fish eyes. During our numerous conversations both on this and subsequent occasions, I heard no word of complaint against the system of government, and though recognising the tendency of natives to conceal their feelings from strangers, I am convinced, from the freedom with which the people talked about all kinds of topics, that they would have mentioned their grievances had they felt any.

7. On visiting the school we found but one scholar, the grandson of the Imam. The others it was said had dropped off one by one, and no new recruits had presented themselves. The scholar seemed an intelligent youth, reading and writing easily and well and showing accuracy in elementary arithmetic, while he also had a fair idea of the position on the map of the more important countries of the world, including his own. This, however, is anything but a gratifying result of the trouble and expense to which Mr. Ross has been put in connection with the school and its master. (The wages of the latter are 6*f.* a week.) The attitude of indifference to education which the people hold seems to be due to their inability to see that any material advantage is to be gained by the acquisition of a knowledge of the three R's. Only a very small proportion of the Cocos people make their homes in other countries; the bulk of them do not look forward to ever leaving the Islands, where under existing circumstances the power of reading and writing adds not a cent to the

earnings of the labourer. The fact that all the Cocos boys are anxious to go through the practical education of the workshop shows that it is not mere idleness that hinders the spread of education. The children can, of course, be reached only through the parents, and the indifference of these last to the welfare of their children would form an obstacle to the elevation of the children by education even if the advantages of study were obvious.

8. From the school we went to the house of the Imam, whom we found suitably engaged in studying Mohammedan law, an occupation which would seem lacking in practical utility in view of the disregard for religion shown by his flock. He proved to be a pronounced optimist regarding the spiritual welfare of his congregation, making, among others, the astonishing statement that there was never any difficulty in obtaining the necessary attendance for the Friday service. The day being Friday and the hour of prayer being near, the total absence from view of any other male adult gave reason to doubt the truth of this statement, and I was subsequently informed by Mr. Sidney Ross the people care as little for religion as for education, being satisfied with one annual attendance at the mosque.

9. The following table, supplied by Mr. Charles Ross, shows the changes of population since the last visit :—

Cocos born.

——	July 1897.	Births.	Deaths.	Arrivals.	Departures.	Sept. 1898.
Men	93	—	2	2	—	93
Women ...	104	—	2	—	—	102
Boys	95	15	6	—	—	104
Girls	118	13	5	—	—	126
Total ...	410	28	15	2	—	425

Bantamese.

——	1897.	Births.	Deaths.	Arrivals.	Departures.	Total.
Men	62	—	5	1	9	49
Women ...	42	—	—	—	5	37
Boys	54	7	3	—	2	56
Girls	43	6	3	—	1	45
Total ...	201	13	11	1	17	187

	1897.	1898.
Total Population	611	612

COCOS-KEELING AND CHRISTMAS ISLANDS, 1898.

In the total 612, are included the 17 Cocos boys who are at present working on Christmas Island.

The actual population is, therefore, 595.

There have been seven marriages of Cocos persons and eight of Bantamese during the past 14 months.

The causes of death are said to be, in the case of the men, dropsy ; of the women, the effects of child-birth ; of the children, as usual, infantile complaints.

10. It is Mr. Ross's belief that the race of the Cocos-born is degenerating. The younger generation is certainly inferior in height and bone to the older, but the latter are, of course, the survivors, and presumably the pick of their own generation ; and, secondly, the exceptional physique of the older generation is probably in a large degree due to the strains of Zulu and Negro blood which flow in the veins of all the Cocos race, and which must become weaker with each successive generation when, as frequently happens, a Cocos man takes a Bantamese wife. It seems questionable whether, apart from the diminution in stature, any signs of degeneration are perceptible, for in muscular development the younger men reach a high standard and compare very favourably with those of Province Wellesley, while the women are almost invariably far taller and more powerfully built than their sisters of the Peninsula.

11. Surgeon Trythall, R.N., visited the villages on three occasions. I avail myself of his observations without further acknowledgment.

12. He treated three cases of paralysis of the lower extremities in women after child-birth, one in the Cocos, and two in the Bantamese village. This affection Mr. Charles Ross believes to be due to toddy drinking. The symptoms first appear about a month after delivery. The child of one of these women was suffering from a strumous skin disease. Surgeon Trythall also treated a case of endo-metritis, and prescribed for one of the Ross family who was suffering from slight functional disease of the liver, complicated by asthma. These were the only new cases of illness.

13. The paralysed boy Amrye is gradually regaining strength. He can now raise himself without help to a sitting position. The galvanic battery ordered for his use has not yet arrived. This is a pity, since the battery would be useful in the apparently frequent cases of female paralysis.

14. Abortives are freely used. They are obtained from one or two old women, who get their drugs from Java and keep the composition of their prescriptions secret. It is to be hoped that the knowledge of these drugs will be lost when the old wives die.

since their use is decidedly harmful and may well be one of the causes of the high death-rate among infants.

15. The mothers show a great lack of parental affection. The children are left very much to take care of themselves, and the infants, until the long-delayed time of weaning arrives, are fed at very irregular intervals.

16. The people greatly prefer native to European medicines, and dose themselves with concoctions which are often entirely unsuited to their complaints. This may be the reason why the women lose their looks so early. At 25 many of them look quite 10 years older.

17. The water supply has given little difficulty since the burial ground was shifted from Settlement to Burial Island. The wells are from 5 to 10 feet deep and the water is of fair quality, but this year, owing to the prolonged drought, many of them have become temporarily brackish. The Ross family obtain their drinking water from Horsburgh Island.

18. The weather during the past year has been noticeable chiefly for a prolonged drought, which lasted for over six months, and was followed by a long period during which the rainfall was below the average. This makes the second year in succession in which there has been a deficiency in the rainfall, and the result has been that Mr. Ross's vegetable garden is almost ruined. The effect on the coconuts has fortunately not been so serious, but the number and size of the nuts has diminished.

19. In February 1898, the barometer went down to 29·45° and it was fully expected that a cyclone would burst over the Island. Fortunately, however, though a cyclone must have been raging within a short distance the Island escaped untouched.

20. I give a table of barometrical readings &c. These are taken three times a day, whenever possible, by Mr. Sidney Ross :—

1897.	Barometer.		Thermometer.		Prevailing Winds.
	Maximum.	Minimum.	Maximum.	Minimum.	
July ...	30·05	29·91	87	76	E.S.E. S.E.
August ...	30·07	29·92	87	74	Do.
September	30·12	29·90	87	75	S.E. to N.E.
October ...	30·15	29·90	85	74	S.E.
November	30·05	29·90	86	76	S.E. E.
December	30·03	29·87	87	74	S.E.

COCOS-KEELING AND CHRISTMAS ISLANDS, 1898.

1898.	Barometer.		Thermometer.		Prevailing Winds.
	Maximum.	Minimum.	Maximum.	Minimum.	
January ...	30·01	29·87	86	71	S.E. S.W.
February...	29·96	29·45	86	73	S.E. N.W.
March ...	29·98	29·81	86	73	S.E.
April ...	30·04	29·86	98	75	S.E. to N.E.
May ...	30·03	29·87	91	76	S.E.
June ...	30·02	29·77	87	73	S.E.
July ...	30·04	29·87	88	75	S.E. E.N.E.
August ...	30·08	29·93	87	75	E.S.E. S.E.
September	30·08	29·92	90	75	S.E. N.E.

21. A really still day is almost unknown. When the waters of the lagoon are perfectly calm the women refuse to do anything but admire their reflections in the water.

22. The copra exported in 1897–8 amounted to 826½ tons, valued at nearly £13 per ton. The bulk of the copra is made on West Island, the nuts on Settlement and the adjacent islands being, for the most part, consumed in various ways by the inhabitants.

23. The number of men permanently employed on West Island is 10, but at the present time 14 are there employed. These men usually live on the Island from Monday to Saturday, returning home for the week-end, but on the Saturday on which I visited the place there were still a number of women employed about the small settlement near the copra store, their male relations being still at work. The ground between the trees on this Island is never cleared, the husks and fallen leaves being allowed to rot where they fall, and so form manure. The result is a great accumulation of rubbish, which must add considerably to the difficulty of collecting and carrying the daily tale of nuts. Nevertheless, the labourers have no difficulty in exceeding the nominal day's task.

The usefulness of the rubbish as manure seems to be doubtful, for the deposits undoubtedly favour the reproduction of the coco-nut beetle, and it is admitted that the trees on West are much inferior to those on Settlement Island. The former, Mr. Sidney Ross told me, produce nuts after from 12 to 14 years, the latter after 4 or 5 years only. This difference he explained as being due to the proximity of dwelling-houses on the latter island, but such a small part of the island is covered by the houses that most of the trees must be unaffected by the proximity, so that the only apparent reason for the great difference is the fact that on Settlement Island the ground is kept clear (the rubbish being used as fuel) and the grass and brushwood are not allowed to grow up.

24. In any case, however, the area of West Island is so large as to preclude the possibility of keeping the ground clean without a great increase in the number of labourers.

25. The present gang of Bantamese coolies were engaged in December 1896. Their wages are 12*f.* per mensem, with no extras. They received an advance of 50*f.* on engagement, which they have been repaying at the rate of 2*f.* a month, so that they now owe only 8*f.* each. The repayment is made by a deduction from their wages each pay day. The Cocos men are paid week by week. A large number are employed as artisans on fixed wages, ranging from 1*f.* in the case of apprentices to 10*f.* in the case of foremen. The wages are raised as the value of the artisan's work increases. In several cases an apprentice's wages have recently been increased to 1·50*f.*

26. For the work connected with the copra industry the scale of pay remains the same as in former years, and seems very liberal. Looking over the pay-bills, which had just been made out when I was in the office, I found one for 15*f.*, on which the number of nuts husked and brought to the store was 8,020, and several cases in which over 7,000 nuts had been dealt with by a single man. One of the workers assured me that he could sail to West Island (a distance of 6 miles), husk and carry 2,000 nuts, and return to the village by 2 p.m. the same day. It was also stated that in a shelling competition for women the winner had shelled 60 nuts in 4 minutes.

27. The wages are paid by means of the pay-bills, which are exchanged when necessary for goods at the store, the surplus, after settling for the purchases, being paid in the Cocos currency.

28. The total value of the currency now in circulation is only 1,718*f.* Pay-bills, however, to the value of 17,350*f.* are still outstanding, this sum being inclusive of payments for the week just ended. The total sum to the credit of all classes is, therefore, 18,068*f.*

29. I was unable to ascertain the total indebtedness of the Cocos men owing to the books not being made up, but an inspection of the individual accounts showed one man with a debit balance of 140*f.*, and a few others with small amounts owing. The total of these is not, I should say, more than 500*f.*

30. Mr. Ross's house is still in process of building. Other works in progress are a "tongkang" and numerous boats of different kinds.

31. For a place given over entirely to the copra industry the proportion of men employed as artisans seems very large. There are numerous sheds where carpentering is constantly going on. This activity is due first to the building of the new house, and secondly to the ravages of the white ants, owing to which woodwork has to be frequently renewed, unless the wood be of the kind unpalatable to these pests.

COCOS KEELING AND CHRISTMAS ISLANDS, 1898.

32. The second night of our visit was enlivened by a dance. The hall was thronged at each end with natives, and the three dances described by Mr. Justice Leach were performed. The third of these is named "Buru-Buru-an Ayam," "The Hunting of the Fowl," a name which probably arises from the apparently inextricable confusion of the dancers. The music is of the same abominable character as that of the Straits, but the drum parts, in deference either to the feelings of Europeans or to the age of the instruments (which is more probable) are not played with such lamentable energy. The band of H.M.S. "Daphne" filled the intervals with European dances, and the saltatory performances of the visitors seemed to afford no less delight to the natives than those of their fellows.

33. Each day of our stay I went at least once through the village, talking to the people, and, with the exception of the grumbler mentioned before, I heard no word of discontent. The people seemed, without exception, contented and well to do.

34. A few of the women wore gold ornaments, and I saw one or two little girls with small gold bracelets. One girl had a George IV. guinea tied to a string round her neck and worn as a locket. Almost all the infants had a bracelet of shells round their left wrists. This kind of bracelet is supposed to act as a charm.

35. Some of the children have strange names. Three brothers rejoice in the names Raglan, Napier, and Jackson (Stonewall), respectively, portraits of these celebrities in illustrated papers having reached the father about the time of their births. We did not come across any name connected with the Diamond Jubilee.

36. On Monday, September 19th, Commander Winnington-Ingram and the ward-room officers entertained our hosts and others at luncheon on board, after which we sailed for Batavia, which we reached on September 24th. After filling up our bunkers, we sailed on the 27th, and reached Singapore on the 29th September.

37. The proverbial hospitality of the Rosses was never more fully shown than during our stay. Messrs. Sidney and Charles Ross gave me every assistance in their power. It is, however, a matter for regret that Mr. Ross himself should have been absent at the time of our visit, for his knowledge of the people and Islands would, no doubt, have enabled him to explain the education and other difficulties, and me to make this report fuller and more interesting.

38. In conclusion, I take this opportunity of recording my gratitude to Commander Winnington-Ingram and the officers of H.M.S. "Daphne" for their constant kindness and hospitality throughout the voyage.

I have, &c.,

R. J. FARRER.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No 235.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 206.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

August 1898.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.; and
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & CO., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & CO., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1898.

[C.—9046-3] *Price* 2*d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
207	British Honduras	1896
208	Sierra Leone	,,
209	Grenada	,,
210	Hong Kong	,,
211	St. Lucia	,,
212	St. Vincent	,,
213	St. Helena	,,
214	Seychelles	,,
215	Mauritius	,,
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands	1897
217	Fiji	1896
218	Ceylon	,,
219	Lagos	,,
220	Gold Coast	,,
221	Labuan	,,
222	British Guiana	1896–97
223	Rodrigues	1896
224	Basutoland	1896–97
225	Jamaica	,,
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
227	Leeward Islands	1896
228	Bermuda	1897
229	Gambia	,,
230	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
231	Barbados	,,
232	Lagos	,,
233	St. Vincent	,,
234	Sierra Leone	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 235.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 206.)

Governor GREY WILSON to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,

Stanley,

16th May 1898.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit the Falkland Islands Blue Book for 1897, together with a report by the Colonial Secretary, Mr. Craigie Halkett.

I have, &c.,

W. GREY WILSON,
Governor.

REPORT ON BLUE BOOK, 1897.

FINANCIAL.

The financial condition of the Colony is eminently sound.

There is no Public Debt and the Revenue during the past year exceeded that of the previous year by some £612.

62*—75—6/98 Wt 21620 D & S—5 (B)

FALKLAND ISLANDS. 1897.

REVENUE.

The sources of Revenue remain unaltered. The total Revenue received during the year was £12,970, collected from the following sources in order of importance :—

	£
1. Rents of Crown Land	4,936
2. Customs and other duties	3,639
3. Interest on Investments	2,147
4. Post Office Revenue	856
5. Licenses and Internal Revenue	649
6. Fees	522
7. Port, Harbour, and Tonnage dues	138
8. Miscellaneous...	83

The only import duties levied are upon liquor and tobacco, everything else being free, and there are no export duties.

None of the harbour dues for light, anchorage &c. which obtain elsewhere are in force here beyond a trifling rate for pilotage at Stanley of 6*s.* and 3*s.* per foot of draught, in and outwards, and in ports of entry other than Stanley a tonnage due of 1*s.* per ton, but in no case exceeding £10 for one ship.

Direct taxes for purposes of general revenue do not exist.

A quasi-municipal rate of 6*d.* per £1 of annual rent is payable by householders in Stanley for the behoof of the town itself, and the specific tax of $\frac{1}{12}$ of a penny per acre on land outside of Stanley continues to be payable for the special object of eradicating the disease of scab in sheep.

The Revenue during the past four years stands as follows in relation to what was estimated :—

Year.	Estimated.	Received.	Excess.
	£	£	£
1894	11,900	11,958	1,058
1895	11,517	12,518	1,001
1896	12,020	12,358	338
1897	12,420	12,970	550

The excess of Revenue, £612, over the preceding year is accounted for by larger receipts under the head of Customs.

A comparative detailed statement of receipts with those of the previous year shows as follows :—

—	1896.	1897.
	£	£
Customs	2,805	3,639
Port &c. Dues	162	138
Licenses, &c.	440	649
Fees	646	522
Post Office	1,171	856
Rents	4,916	4,936
Miscellaneous	149	83
Interest on Investments ...	2,069	2,147
Total	£12,358	£12,970

Advances to the following extent over the amounts received during 1896 occurred in the items of :—

	£
Customs	834
Licenses	209
Rents	20
Interest	78
Total	£1,141

On the other hand, a falling off is apparent in :—

	£
Port &c. dues	24
Fees	124
Post office	315
Miscellaneous	66
	£529

Expenditure.

No exceptional variation has occurred in the causes for expenditure, the principal of which are the Government Staff, Public Works, and the Post Office.

As compared with the previous year, these items stand thus :—

—	1896.	1897.
	£	£
Government Staff ...	5,846	5,889
Public Works	2,151	2,266
Post Office	3,000	2,873

FALKLAND ISLANDS. 1897.

The total Expenditure during the year was £13,636, or £666 in excess of the Revenue received, and £1,646 over the estimate, as compared with £1,211 expended in the previous year in excess of receipts, and £1,591 in excess of the estimate for that year.

The various items of Expenditure during the past four years are shown in the subjoined table :—

——	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.
	£	£	£	£
Pensions	313	334	283	223
Governor	1,384	1,394	1,416	1,311
Colonial Secretary	1,035	1,109	1,111	1,145
Customs	183	192	99	209
Audit	56	66	55	43
Port and Marine	175	361	246	291
Legal	492	598	831	527
Police	493	568	484	511
Prisons	166	97	78	244
Medical	583	605	576	630
Education	465	513	588	677
Ecclesiastical	460	462	518	518
Transport	566	100	211	184
Miscellaneous	596	779	383	399
Post Office	2,249	2,271	3,000	2,873
Public Works	2,397	2,277	2,152	2,266
Interest on Savings Bank Deposits.	758	808	855	945
Survey	—	402	391	349
Drawbacks	24	223	292	291
Total ... £	12,395	13,159	13,569	13,636

The items going to make up the expenditure of £1,646 in excess of the estimated requirements for the year are shown below.

Excesses :—

	£
Colonial Secretary	87
Customs	84
Port and marine	46
Police...	78
Prisons	120
Medical	2
Education	20
Transport	64
Miscellaneous	25
Public works	1,296
Interest	100
Drawbacks	241
	£2,163

Less than estimated :—

	£
Governor	103
Audit	7
Legal	280
Post Office	127
	£517

	£
Deducting saving	517
from excesses	2,163
gives the nett excess	£1,646

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
On the 31st December, 1897, the Assets were	60,946	14	2
And Liabilities	44,203	13	6
Excess of Assets	£16,743	0	8

The Assets comprise—

	£	s.	d.
Cash	3,431	8	11
Investments	54,994	14	2
Bills in transit	2,015	0	4
Advances due	505	10	9
	£60,946	14	2

Invested funds are of four classes :—

	£	s.	d.
Land Sales...	18,504	0	4
Savings Bank	33,041	17	7
Intestate Estates	555	4	9
Surplus	2,893	11	6
	£54,994	14	2

Substantial increase in Land Sales and Surplus is shown by a comparison with previous years, thus :—

Investments.

—	1895.	1896.	1897.
	£	£	£
Land Sales	14,895	16,932	18,504
Savings Bank	33,691	34,222	33,041
Intestate Estates	—	—	555
Surplus...	1,041	1,441	2,893

A new fund for investment of unclaimed Intestate Estates was opened during the year.

Satisfactory progress is maintained in the growth of excess of Assets over Liabilities from year to year, thus :—

—	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.
	£	£	£	£
Excess Assets	14,020	15,287	15,889	16,743

Liabilities are of the same class as before, and are made up of—

	£	s.	d.
Deposits	41,170	9	5
Post Office money orders, unpaid...	8	0	2
Subsidy	1,350	0	0
Bills on Colony	900	0	0
Bills on London	740	7	7
Pensions	34	16	4
	£44,203	13	6

By far the most considerable item in Liabilities is the amount deposited in the Government Savings Bank, which has increased year by year, thus :—

——	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.
	£	£	£	£
Savings Bank Deposits ...	33,045	35,661	36,363	39,426

Liabilities for pensions have decreased from £63 in 1894 to £35 in 1897, but those for mail subsidy have increased with an improved service from £900 in 1894 to £1,350 in 1897.

The statement of Assets and Liabilities will be found in the Appendix A.

MILITARY.

There are no regular forces stationed in the Colony, and no defences of a permanent nature, but a Volunteer Rifle Corps has been formed for purposes of local defence.

The present nominal strength of the Rifle Volunteer Corps, which is armed with Martini-Henry B.L.R. rifles, is 83, made up of—

Officers	6
Non-commissioned Officers	4
Privates	73

of which number 44 were returned as efficient.

PUBLIC WORKS.

These, although confined wholly to the town of Stanley, necessitate an annual expenditure of considerable magnitude in relation to the amount of revenue, of which they absorb about a sixth.

Repairs to public buildings and to streets and roads call for continuous outlay, which could only be minimized by a very large capital outlay, in thoroughly building up the streets, first digging

away the peat sub-soil, and in the erection of stone or brick offices and quarters in place of the wooden erections that prevail.

One public work of importance was undertaken and completed in the year, at a cost of £415,—the erection of a sea wall some 300 yards in length, required for the protection and widening of the main road running west past Government House.

The wants of those outside Stanley require, and only await sufficient funds to receive, attention in various directions to facilitate communication.

Without a wholly prohibitive capital outlay, it is useless even to think of making roads through the "camp."

But the building of one or two necessary bridges, and the formation of guide-posts or cairns to mark the tracks between homesteads, are feasible, and as the Colony progresses will become accomplished facts.

Various circumstances militate against work being undertaken which in a country differently circumstanced would appear simple and ordinary.

First and foremost is the geological formation of the group. Again, the supply of labour is extremely limited as well as unskilled, while rates of remuneration rule high, a state of affairs that is likely to obtain until the Colony becomes opened up and its population added to.

LEGISLATION.

Ten Ordinances were passed during the year, six of which were added to the Statute Book, the remaining four having been remitted back for amendment.

Ordinances Nos. 1 and 9 related to the prevention of the disease of Scab in Sheep.

Ordinances Nos. 2 and 10 provided for the financial service of the Colony.

Ordinance No. 3 consolidated the Customs legislation.

Ordinance No. 4 provided for a Board of Health on the West Falkland Island, thereby detaching that Island from the East Falkland for sanitary purposes.

Ordinances Nos. 5 and 7 related to provision for protection of Stanley and its environs against fire.

Ordinances Nos. 6 and 8 aimed at improving the existing legislation regarding dividing fences and the prevention of trespass by animals.

EDUCATION.

Newspapers, &c.

In the appointment of two itinerant Schoolmasters elementary education has been finally brought within reach of the most

remote shepherd's hut, so that no further excuse exists for the lamentable condition of illiteracy in which whole families had unavoidably to be raised.

During the year a Standard Examination of the Schools in Stanley of each denomination was held for the first time, with results which amply justified its institution.

The hesitation inseparable from a new departure and a first attempt will wear off by another year, when the results may be expected to be even more hopeful.

The instruction imparted in the schools continues to be confined to the most elementary subjects.

Economic causes contribute to block the way, but these will be so modified in time as to admit of some young folks being detached from domestic duties after the compulsory school age has passed, and so being enabled to attend higher classes.

Technical instruction in trades is a matter not lost sight of, and will be instituted at the earliest practicable moment.

Watchful insistence on the provisions of the School compulsory legislation ensures the largest possible attendance in the three schools in Stanley.

Beyond Stanley, at Darwin, and in the case of the itinerant masters of the West Falkland, the conditions are so different as to render a similar insistence impossible, in spite of which, however, the attendance rolls cannot be regarded as otherwise than satisfactory.

Although the Government School Inspector happens to be the Colonial Chaplain and Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, the Government schools, senior and infant, are entirely undenominational.

The Roman Catholic and the Baptist schools are conducted by their own pastors, but the instruction imparted by the masters at Darwin and in the West Falklands is undenominational.

All are mixed schools, neither numbers nor facilities admitting of the complete separation of boys from girls.

The teachers of the Government schools receive fixed salaries, while the Roman Catholic and Baptist Missions receive State aid at the rate of 24*s*. per pupil per annum. The Corporation of the Falkland Islands Company pay their own master on their camp at Darwin.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The bulk of trade continues with Great Britain, nor do the returns of Imports and Exports disclose any important change in its volume or quality.

Country.	Imports.				Exports.			
	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.
	£	£	£	£	£.	£.	£.	£.
United Kingdom	54,500	64,248	62,641	54,225	130,071	122,988	132,194	123,186
Germany...	759	720	441	642	—	—	—	—
Uruguay	1,712	3,615	1,705	2,794	—	—	—	—
Chile	4,232	3,243	5,198	5,375	1,160	—	—	1,937
Argentine	1,067	—	—	250	570	—	—	—
TOTAL	62,270	71,826	69,985	63,286	131,801	122,988	132,194	125,123

The Colony's exports are nearly double the value of its imports.

A review of the items which go to make up the totals of Imports and Exports is not without interest, and discloses the narrow limits within which both continue to be confined.

Taking first the most important, the *Exports*, we find far at the head

			£
Wool ...	4,301,500 lbs.	value	107,537
Skins, sheep	72,700 „	„	9,087
Skins, seal fur	1,609 „	„	2,413
Hides ...	1,738 „	„	1,350
Tallow ...	213,880 „	„	1,782
Other articles		value	2,954.

In five years, viz. since 1892, the quantity of wool exported has increased one fourth, the number of seal skins has nearly trebled, and of hides quadrupled.

On the other hand, the export of frozen mutton has ceased, and of live stock and tallow has fallen to quite a nominal figure.

Market fluctuations from time to time largely influence the money values of exports, which, though greater in quantity, often appear as of less total value. For example, wool ruled low during the year, and tallow, owing to Russian competition, scarce commanded a remunerative price.

Imports.

The quantity and value of these compared with the imports in the previous year from the various countries are as follows :—

—	1896.	1897.
From United Kingdom :—	£	£
Coal	1,385	3,242
Wearing apparel, clothing material, including boots and haberdashery.	11,865	12,832
Hardware, machinery, &c.	19,574	7,410
Oilmen's stores, groceries, and provisions	14,249	12,140
Live stock and fodder	2,668	640
Building material, including timber ...	5,236	2,994
Liquor, beer, spirits of all kinds ...	5,737	6,606
Tobacco and cigars	1,329	2,657
Specie	2,000	40
Ship stores, cordage, &c.	6,169	4,503
Sheep dip	2,429	1,161
	62,641	54,225
From Germany :—		
Groceries	254	628
Liquor, beer, spirits, wine	86	14
Tobacco	50	—
Clothing	20	—
Hardware	10	—
Vegetables	21	—
	441	642
From Uruguay :—		
Cereals	980	1,833
Fruit and vegetables	498	702
Oil	96	175
Fodder	105	84
Groceries...	7	—
Hardware	9	—
Clothing	10	—
	1,705	2,794
From Chile :—		
Cereals	2,090	2,656
Fruit and vegetables	406	158
Groceries...	296	—
Fencing	785	—
Live stock and horses	1,150	145
Building material	200	2,260
Sheep dip	200	—
Ship stores	60	—
Fodder	185	150
Liquor and wines	26	6
	5,198	5,375
From Argentina :—		
Horses	—	250

No important stress is to be laid upon the total imports for 1897 appearing as £6,000 less than in 1896.

This difference represents merely the unforeseen delay of one or other of the sailing vessels which bring cargo once or twice in the year from England.

Upon the completion of the new fences being put up in every part of the Colony, a shrinkage must become evident in the value of the Imports, which will then be confined mainly to luxuries and necessaries for personal and domestic consumption.

SHIPPING.

Under the conditions that obtain in the Colony, little variation occurs in the volume of shipping year by year, which rises or falls according as the weather compels vessels to put in for repairs.

The number of vessels, steam and sailing, which entered and cleared during the past three years is shown by the subjoined table :—

Steam Ships.

Country.	1895.				1896.				1897.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Germany	14	26,093	14	26,093	20	36,339	20	36,339	19	41,543	19	41,543
England	1	1,893	1	1,893	1	3,528	1	3,528	—	—	—	—
Chile	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	1,204	6	1,204
Total ...	15	27,986	15	27,986	21	39,867	21	39,867	25	42,747	25	42,747

Sailing Ships.

Country.	1895.				1896.				1897.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
England	17	10,801	12	7,325	8	6,606	6	4,278	10	6,019	10	6,019
Germany	1	1,603	1	1,603	3	5,482	2	970	3	2,848	3	2,848
United States ...	1	60	1	60	1	1,498	3	4,782	—	—	—	—
Chile	1	358	1	358	6	1,036	5	589	2	471	2	471
Norway	1	1,382	1	363	4	1,807	3	2,885	—	—	—	—
Italy	—	—	—	—	—	--	—	—	1	1,711	1	1,711
Denmark	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	348	—	—
Total ...	21	14,204	16	9,709	22	16,429	19	13,504	17	11,397	16	11,049

FALKLAND ISLANDS 1897.

The most noteworthy feature in these returns is the preponderance of foreign vessels, which is explained by the Mail contract being in the hands of a German line, the Kosmos Company of Hamburg.

Fewer ships put in for repairs than for some years back, this being the natural result of less boisterous and stormy weather prevailing round the Horn in April and October.

INDUSTRIES.

As may be gathered from a glance at the exports, but one industry may be said to obtain—that of sheep farming.

Allowing for comparative poverty of the natural grass, the islands form quite an ideal sheep farm.

There are no troublesome forests to clear away, no deep and dangerous rivers to be crossed, no dingoes to harass and destroy the stock, no prolonged droughts, and, above all, no rabbits to annoy the farmer and involve his yearly output in a disagreeable uncertainty.

Bad and good seasons occur here as elsewhere, but the difference is not marked in the same degree as in other countries less adapted by nature for this particular industry.

Annual earnings are mainly influenced by the fluctuations of the wool market in London, and farmers have small cause to trouble seriously about climate, weather, or aught else.

More than one early traveller in this region, years before the experiment of sheep farming was brought to its present successful issue, gave his opinion of the possibilities of the soil of the islands for agriculture, and their capability to sustain a large population.

With this expression of opinion the matter seems to have rested, and agriculture for purposes of a livelihood has not been taken up, possibly because of the uninviting appearance of the "camp," or of the high winds that must be fatal to all but tubers of various kinds, and the scarcity and expense of labour. Such labour as happened to be present found lighter and more congenial and profitable work on the sheep farms that were started in quick succession.

The flourishing condition of the kitchen gardens in every settlement and in the town of Stanley, amply evidences the capability of the soil to reward individual labour. But between this and a paying industry there is a large difference.

The Colony, despite its solvent and prosperous condition, affords no inducement to capitalists desirous of opening up new industries nor to intending immigrants.

There is already in the Colony more than sufficient labour to meet the demand, which is stationary, and is a diminishing rather than an expanding quantity.

No land remains at the disposal of the Crown, and intending settlers must make terms with private holders.

In the quality of imports there is room for improvement, and profitable employment for small capital in the importation of fruit and fresh farm produce.

In a country where animal food is so plentiful that mutton commands but 2*d.* and beef 5*d.* per lb., the consumption of canned goods is incredible.

No fruit of any kind is cultivated, and such small and uncertain parcels as are brought by the mail steamers from Chili and Uruguay are eagerly sought after at high figures.

The high price of labour, and the difficulty of communication over the vast area of the Colony, act as effective deterrents to the establishment of home farms for the production of farm produce.

Potatoes of fair quality are grown at every settlement, as well as turnips, cabbages, beetroot, rhubarb, &c. The soil and climate of West Falkland Island lend themselves to successful agriculture far better than those of East Falkland.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

As might be expected in a country the staple product and industry of which is pastoral, crime in the severer acceptation of the word is unknown.

The following table gives the proportion of offences reported and persons convicted per cent. of the population during the past four years :—

——	Reported.	Convicted.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
1894	2·44	1·38
1895	5·47	3·53
1896	2·66	1·30
1897	2·48	2·24

The total number of convictions for all offences in the four years was 166, namely :—

Against the person	40
„ property	34
Other offences	92

With the exception of 7, that is,

In 1894, 3 against property,
In 1895, 2 against the person,
In 1897, 2 against property,

the whole were offences in the jurisdiction of the inferior courts.

It will be seen that the preponderating number came under the head of Other Offences, namely, against Merchant Shipping Act, and local Ordinances against drunkenness, for enforcing attendance at school, municipal regulations, &c.

The normal population of the Colony is law-abiding in the fullest degree, offences requiring penal punishment being confined mainly to the floating population of passing ships.

For months together the common gaol, which can only accommodate eleven prisoners at most, is untenanted, and the local gaoler, who is also Government printer, finds occupation in the duties of the latter office.

More frequent visits by H.M. ships since the establishment of a naval range have resulted in the prison being utilized somewhat more than before.

But the prisoners thus admitted are invariably under sentence for breaches of discipline only, and are not included in the foregoing returns.

Hospitals, Lunatic Asylums, Charitable and Literary Institutions.

The Colony does not possess either hospital or lunatic asylum, the need for either one or other not having yet presented itself.

While cases of petty illness are inevitable, grave outbreaks of disease are happily extremely rare. Occasionally surgical cases arise through accident, and these are treated in the houses of private individuals.

Outbreaks of lunacy are so rare that the legislation providing for removal to England of any person found to be insane has proved sufficient to meet the requirements of the Colony.

Charitable Institutions.

The conditions of life have not so far called into existence any institutions for permanent relief.

Indigence is comparatively unknown, and such isolated cases as have occurred have been dealt with by private subscription.

Literary Institutions.

The town of Stanley possesses a lending library, on a modest scale, and without any proper location.

It is under the direction of the Colonial Chaplain, by whose kindness the books are accommodated in the vestry attached to Christ Church Cathedral.

GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK.

The transactions of the Government Savings Bank show an improved and satisfactory condition of things.

On the 30th of September 1897, the last day of the financial bank year, a sum of £38,270 was shown on the books to the credit of 327 depositors ; as against a sum on the same date in the previous year of £36,718, the property of 308 depositors.

The total transactions since the opening of the bank on the 1st of April 1888 show : Total withdrawn, £57,204 ; as against deposited, £95,505.

Interest paid by Government to the credit of depositors in 1897 at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum amounted to £833, as against £1,199 received as interest on bank funds invested in consols, Colonial Government Bonds, and other securities.

Expenses of management came to £42 10*s*., leaving a net profit on the year's working of £273.

The balance to credit of depositors gives the very satisfactory average of £19 2*s*. 8*d*. per head of the population, as compared with £18 7*s*. 2*d*. on the 30th September 1896.

These figures, as the Treasurer, who is manager, rightly observes, after but ten years' establishment, compare most favourably with those of other colonies.

FALKLAND ISLANDS. 1897.

The results attained have amply justified the wisdom of forming an establishment offering complete security with a fair rate of interest in a country where no opportunity offers for local investment.

The Bank presents a direct encouragement to thrift, the extent of which may be principally gauged by the class of depositors, who are found, not among the large land owners and sheep farmers, but among the shepherds and employés and the labouring class generally.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

So far back as 1859 a quasi-Friendly Society, having for its object provision for sickness and the defraying of burial expenses, was formed under the title of the Stanley Benefit Club.

It is a private establishment, not under any Government control or supervision.

The membership is considerable, and the allowances on a liberal scale, having regard to the low rate of subscription, 1*s.* 6*d.* a month.

The age of admission is limited to 40 years.

CHILDREN'S PENNY SAVINGS BANK.

A private organization in Stanley called the Children's Penny Savings Bank is well patronised by school children and others. It is under the direct control of the Dean and Inspector of Schools, and banks its capital in the Government Savings Bank.

It is not formed under any law, nor subject to any Government supervision.

GENERAL.

The usual Governor's term of six years having expired, Sir R. Goldsworthy left the Colony in April, handing over the Administration to the Senior Executive Official, the Colonial Secretary, who administered the Government until the arrival in October of the new Governor, Mr. W. Grey-Wilson, C.M.G.

F. CRAIGIE-HALKETT,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Stanley, Falkland Islands,
May 16th, 1898.

APPENDIX A.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31st December, 1897.

Assets.	Amount.	Total.	Liabilities.	Amount.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Cash in—			Bills Drawn by Crown Agents ...	900 0 0	
Colonial Chest	936 17 11		„ „ on „ „ ...	740 7 7	
Crown Agents...	2,494 11 0				1,640 7 7
		3,431 8 11	**Deposits—**		
Investments—			Savings Bank	39,426 2 3	
Land Sales Fund	18,504 0 4		Intestates...	947 11 0	
Savings Bank	33,041 17 7		Alien	53 0 0	
Surplus	2,893 11 6		Sealing &c.	47 2 0	
Intestates	555 4 9		Scab Ordinance	696 14 2	
		54,994 14 2			41,170 9 5
Bills in Transit—			**Post Office—**		
Savings Bank, 1,865 of 10-11-97 ...	1,000 0 0		Kosmos Company, Mail Subsidy, June to December.	1,350 0 0	
„ „ 1,878 of 30-12-97 ...	1,000 0 0		Unpaid Money Orders	8 0 2	
Rem., Mly., Pensions of 24 2-12-97...	15 0 4				1,358 0 2
		2,015 0 4	**Pensions—**		
Advances—			Byng, December quarter ...	9 8 10	
Coal and Oil	304 2 10		McAlister „ „ ...	1 0 0	
Personal	36 12 3		Watts „ „ ...	24 7 6	
Board of Trade	164 15 8				34 16 4
		505 10 9	Excess of Assets.		16,743 0 8
		60,946 14 2			60,946 14 2

April, 1898.

Charles W. Hill, *Colonial Treasurer.*

APPENDIX B.

Treasury,
9th December, 1897.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Savings Bank Capital Account for the Year ended 30th September, 1897.

The transactions of the Bank from the date of its formation have been as follows :—

YEAR.	Accounts opened.	Accounts closed.	Number of Deposits.	Number of Withdrawals.	Amounts of Deposits with accrued interest.			Withdrawals.		
					£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
1st April to 30th Sept., 1888.	32	—	60	—	4,201	1	5			
1888—1889	67	7	150	37	13,809	8	8	2,871	5	10
1889—1890	56	21	188	93	8,972	7	4	6,300	19	5
1890—1891	70	30	256	182	8,577	2	2	4,760	1	6
1891—1892	62	37	291	103	8,668	5	9	5,355	9	2
1892—1893	60	32	250	112	11,923	1	4	6,790	3	5
1893—1894	68	38	325	123	10,424	17	3	7,817	0	11
1894—1895	64	32	312	148	9,355	6	4	7,620	14	11
1895—1896	59	31	387	123	9,911	6	9½	7,609	1	5½
1896—1897	65	48	356	150	9,662	11	1	8,110	0	2
	603	276	2,575	1,071	95,505	8	1½	57,234	16	9½

The balance in hand of £38,270 11*s.* 4*d.* is distributed amongst 327 depositors, giving an average of £117 0*s.* 8*d.* standing to the credit of each account, or £19 2*s.* 8*d.* per head of the population. These figures, after a period of ten years' establishment, compare favourably with other Colonies, where, from the late Sir R. Giffen's 60 years statistics, South Australia heads the list with £7 10*s.* 0*d.* per head of the population.

With the absence of other means of investing locally, unmixed good therefore has undoubtedly resulted from the introduction of the Savings Bank; the majority of the shepherds and labouring classes, feeling that they can enjoy the security of the Bank, and that years of thrift will not be lost to them, have, as was anticipated, taken advantage in this way of making prudent provision for the future.

Far from throwing any charge on the public, the Savings Bank yields a profit, which is sufficient to secure the Government against any risk of loss.

The income earned during the past year was £1,199 8*s.* 10*d.*, the expenses incurred were £925 13*s.* 3*d.*, leaving a profit of £273 15*s.* 7*d.*

I have, &c.,

CHARLES W. HILL,
Colonial Treasurer.

FALKLAND ISLANDS SAVINGS BANK. CAPITAL ACCOUNT.

30*th September*, 1897.

DR. CR.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Investment in Securities	33,591	5	9			
Balance uninvested	4,679	5	7			
				38,270	11	4
				£38,270	11	4

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
On deposits 30 Sept., 1896				36,718	0	5			
Deposits 1st Oct., 1896, to 30th Sept., 1897.	8,779	7	9½						
Withdrawals	8,110	0	2						
				669	7	7½			
Interest 1st Oct., 1896, to 30th Sept., 1897.				883	3	3½			
							38,270	11	4
							£38,270	11	4

FALKLAND ISLANDS SAVINGS BANK. PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

30*th September*, 1897.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Interest on Investments	1,199	8	10			
				1,199	8	10
				£1,199	8	10

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Interest paid and accrued to Depositors 1st Oct., 1896, to 30th Sept., 1897.	883	3	3			
Expenses of Management :—						
Allowance Treasurer	18	6	8			
„ Clerk	9	3	4			
„ Auditor	15	0	0			
				925	13	3
Profit on year's transactions				273	15	7
				£1,199	8	10

CHARLES W. HILL, *Treasurer.*

APPENDIX C.

Stanley,
May, 1898.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit herewith a general Statistical Table for the Blue Book for 1897.

It gives the principal items of information illustrating the progress of the Colony from its foundation.

A glance at this retrospect will at once show the great success that has followed the industry and enterprise of a handful of permanent English settlers, which numbered 52 in 1843.

Approximately, without adventitious aid, one thousand men now support an equal number of women and children; they occupy some 5,000 square miles of pastoral country, possess 732,000 sheep producing 4,301,000 lbs. of wool, and conduct an external commerce of £186,600.

Such is the material result shown in the fifty-fifth year of the colonization of the Falkland Islands.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES W. HILL.
Treasurer.

STATISTICAL TABLE showing the PROGRESS of the COLONY of the FALKLAND ISLANDS from the YEAR 1842 to 1897.

Year.	Parliamentary Grant.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Imports (*a*).	Exports (*b*).	Sailing vessels entered (*c*).		Steamers entered.	Horned cattle, wild and tame.	Sheep.	Year.
	£	£	£	£	£	No.	Tons.	No.	No.	No.	
1842	2,000	363	1,836	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1842
1843	2,000	1,816	4,342	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1843
1844	4,350	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1844
1845	9,812	—	5,557	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1845
1846	7,686	1,181	7,178	—	—	25	7,262	—	60,400	—	1846
1847	4,758	3,461	12,710	—	—	22	—	—	60,500	200	1847
1848	5,500	1,098	6,658	—	—	28	—	—	61,300	78	1848
1849	3,412	316	5,463	9,760	2,660	29	9,205	—	63,100	150	1849
1850	—	493	6,341	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1850
1851	6,655	366	6,544	13,000	4,500	50	15,197	—	50–70,000	500	1851
1852	4,201	520	6,102	16,132	5,800	62	22,024	—	61,000	1,000	1852
1853	4,398	758	5,565	16,862	7,428	60	25,186	—	30–61,000	2,000	1853
1854	3,328	974	5,695	13,800	6,500	55	23,728	—	20–50,000	—	1854
1855	2,612	733	5,354	—	—	53	19,793	—	20–80,000	3,000	1855
1856	2,190	884	4,685	11,300	11,800	33	10,501	—	15–20,000	3,000	1856
1857	2,430	1,514	4,955	—	—	40	18,415	—	20,000	4,520	1857
1858	6,162	711	5,819	—	—	28	8,645	—	14,000	7,650	1858
1859	3,539	654	5,138	13,890	6,892	53	22,140	—	19,000	7,912	1859
1860	3,786	1,438	5,427	26,697	4,910	47	15,909	—	19,000	10,600	1860

1861	5,269	1,024	5,797	27,205	14,486	54	21,327	—	28,500	11,550	1861
1862	3,435	3,036	6,711	25,532	15,556	62	34,306	—	30,000	15,369	1862
1863	4,082	1,166	4,537	28,658	18,415	74	33,673	—	21,000	19,300	1863
1864	4,734	1,111	6,122	19,438	10,114	60	23,524	—	30–35,000	25,630	1864
1865	6,523	1,133	8,096	15,040	17,325	55	20,452	—	30–35,000	25,695	1865
1866	5,075	1,186	7,125	20,948	21,780	70	42,547	—	27–32,000	31,498	1866
1867	4,044	2,364	6,455	22,125	18,230	62	32,678	—	33–38,000	34,986	1867
1868	3,370	2,070	6,850	20,710	12,695	50	29,730	—	28–29,000	37,788	1868
1869	6,473	2,574	8,475	18,172	19,184	54	22,195	—	36,000	60,000	1869
1870	3,782	3,176	7,838	20,596	19,894	55	20,227	—	43,000	64,675	1870
1871	3,722	2,808	11,324	23,715	24,692	60	29,959	—	44,680	78,380	1871
1872	3,350	4,284	10,200	24,441	31,435	48	25,700	—	40,810	124,690	1872
1873	3,382	4,520	9,057	36,540	40,586	53	26,518	—	45,000	169,015	1873
1874	3,588	3,968	9,790	28,156	41,720	49	17,679	—	—	—	1874
1875	3,656	4,133	10,163	42,460	38,989	55	22,403	—	25,000	185,400	1875
1876	3,212	3,356	6,653	27,056	37,121	37	22,892	—	21,148	271,400	1876
1877	3,638	3,286	6,266	33,283	59,878	31	11,415	—	14,290	283,350	1877
1878	1,755	3,838	6,364	35,792	51,055	35	8,386	4	14,840	313,300	1878
1879	3,131	5,022	6,312	38,940	71,340	44	12,725	—	15,710	351,620	1879
1880	Nil.	4,433	5,074	33,505	88,564	38	20,475	7	16,450	410,800	1880
1881	(*d*) 500	7,891	8,078	40,443	87,919	29	18,942	27	—	—	1881
1882	(*d*) 1,000	6,681	7,565	35,429	76,931	30	20,174	20	—	—	1882
1883	(*d*) 1,000	7,337	8,728	52,913	84,593	23	14,238	13	11,374	428,918	1883

(*a*) Imports retained for home consumption.
(*b*) Exports of produce of the colony.
(*c*) As with but few exceptions, the vessels entered also cleared, a return of the latter is not given.
(*d*) Grant in aid of mail service.

N.B.—Where blank spaces occur no figures can be traced from official records.

STATISTICAL TABLE SHOWING THE PROGRESS OF THE COLONY OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS FROM THE YEAR 1842 TO 1897—*continued.*

Year.	Parliamentary Grant.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Imports (*a*).	Exports (*b*).	Sailing vessels entered (*c*).		Steamers entered.	Horned cattle, wild and tame.	Sheep.	Year.
	£	£	£	£	£	No.	Tons.	No.	No.	No.	
1884	(*d*) 500	9,134	7,791	67,848	101,338	23	16,747	14	11,569	473,227	1884
1885	Nil.	10,438	7,598	48,314	97,846	21	11,353	15	7,934	516,975	1885
1886	Nil.	9,295	7,951	73,602	108,946	22	15,505	15	5,471	485,521	1886
1887	Nil.	8,963	9,128	66,785	107,995	35	21,535	18	6,210	562,821	1887
1888	Nil.	8,951	8,818	54,008	88,743	21	8,132	15	8,169	582,419	1888
1889	Nil.	8,628	9,720	55,716	116,102	31	12,241	14	6,521	589,722	1889
1890	Nil.	9,492	9,389	67,182	115,865	30	12,336	13	7,200	676,000	1890
1891	Nil.	11,551	13,302	67,827	130,752	26	16,766	17	6,321	667,344	1891
1892	Nil.	11,485	10,947	70,138	126,312	32	17,765	18	5,755	642,735	1892
1893	Nil.	11,450	11,388	71,126	134,872	24	10,398	18	6,200	771,305	1893
1894	Nil.	11,958	12,395	62,270	131,801	18	12,043	21	8,192	763,244	1894
1895	Nil.	12,518	13,159	71,826	122,988	21	14,204	15	6,850	791,442	1895
1896	Nil.	12,358	13,569	69,985	132,194	22	16,429	21	6,500	801,359	1896
1897	Nil.	12,970	13,636	63,286	123,186	16	11,051	25	7,343	732,010	1897

(*a*) Imports retained for home consumption.
(*b*) Exports of produce of the colony.
(*c*) As, with but few exceptions, the vessels entered also cleared, a return of the latter is not given.
(*d*) Grant in aid of mail service.

N.B.—Where blank spaces occur no figures can be traced from official records.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

1898.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 263.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1898.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 235.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
July 1899.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 1-3, Great St. Thomas Apostle, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C., and
32, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, Hanover Street, Edinburgh, and
90, West Nile Street, Glasgow; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., Limited, 104, Grafton Street, Dublin.

1899.

[C.—9046–31.] *Price* 1½*d*.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
234	Sierra Leone	1897
235	Falkland Islands	,,
236	Straits Settlements	,,
237	British New Guinea	1896–97
238	Bahamas	1897
239	St. Lucia	,,
240	St. Helena	,,
241	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
242	British Honduras	,,
243	Malta	,,
244	Fiji	,,
245	Hong Kong	,,
246	Leeward Islands	,,
247	Grenada	,,
248	Gibraltar	,,
249	Gold Coast	,,
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues	,,
251	Solomon Islands	1897–98
252	Seychelles	1897
253	Labuan	,,
254	Ceylon	,,
255	Basutoland	1897–98
256	Newfoundland	1896–97
257	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1898
258	British New Guinea	1897–98
259	Bermuda	1898
260	Niger.—West African Frontier Force ...	1897–98
261	Jamaica	,,
262	Barbados	1898

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland ...	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific ...	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands... ...	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.

No. 263.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

FALKLAND ISLANDS, 1898.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 235.)

GOVERNOR GREY WILSON to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Stanley,
4th May 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Colonial Secretary's Report upon the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1898.

I have, &c.,

W. GREY WILSON,

Governor.

3175* - 75—6/99 Wt 21935 D & S—5 (B)

FALKLAND ISLANDS, 1898.

REPORT ON BLUE BOOK, 1898.

GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The total revenue for 1898 amounted to £13,039 being £69 more than for 1897, and £302 in excess of the estimates.

Receipts during the past three years show as follows :—

—	1896.	1897.	1898.
	£	£	£
Customs	2,805	3,639	3,550
Port &c. dues	162	138	169
Licenses &c.	440	649	520
Fees	646	522	476
Post Office	1,171	856	1,159
Rents	4,916	4,936	4,998
Miscellaneous	149	83	82
Interest on investments	2,069	2,147	2,085
Totals	12,358	12,970	13,039

Revenue from the following sources exceeded that of the previous year :—

	£
Port, harbour, and tonnage dues ...	31
Post Office	303
Rents	62

The following fell below the previous year :—

	£
Customs	89
Licenses &c.	129
Fees	46
Miscellaneous	1
Interest	62

The revenue received in the past four years compares with that estimated thus :—

Year.	Estimated.	Received.	Excess.
	£	£	£
1895 ...	11,517	12,518	1,001
1896 ...	12,020	12,358	338
1897 ...	12,420	12,970	550
1898 ...	12,737	13,039	302

Although, then, the estimate has been raised from year to year, that hopeful view has been justified by results, demonstrating in a satisfactory manner the elasticity of the revenue.

The increase has been attained without the impost of any fresh taxes, duties, or charges, beyond a rise in the municipal rate on house property in Stanley for purposes of protection against fire from 6*d.* to 9*d.* in the pound on annual value.

Expenditure.

The total expenditure for 1898 was £14,278, viz. :—£1,239 beyond the actual revenue, and £2,559 in excess of that estimated to meet the requirements of the year.

The following table gives the several items during the past four years :—

	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
	£	£	£	£
Pensions	334	283	223	223
Governor	1,394	1,416	1,311	1,393
Colonial Secretary	1,109	1,111	1,145	1,304
Customs	192	99	209	165
Audit	66	55	43	25
Port and Marine	361	246	291	258
Legal	598	831	527	358
Police...	568	484	511	503
Prisons	97	78	244	234

—	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
Medical	605	576	630	565
Education	513	588	677	631
Ecclesiastical...	462	518	518	484
Transport	100	211	184	396
Miscellaneous	779	383	399	1,146
Post Office	2,271	3,000	2,873	3,045
Public Works	2,277	2,152	2,266	2,188
Interest, Savings Bank ...	808	855	945	1,002
Survey	402	391	349	334
Drawbacks &c.	223	292	291	24
Totals	13,159	13,569	13,636	14,278

	£
Items where the expenditure exceeded estimate...	2,794
Deduct those showing a saving over estimate ...	235
Net excess	2,559

The total revenue and expenditure for the last five years is shown below :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
1894 ...	11,958 11 10	12,395 19 7
1895 ...	12,518 16 6	13,159 8 4
1896 ...	12,358 1 10	13,569 9 4
1897 ...	12,969 12 2	13,636 10 0
1898 ...	13,039 1 7½	14,278 1 10

Taxes, duties, and other sources of revenue.

These have been modified and added to as follows :—

The rate of 6*d.* in the pound of annual value levied upon house property in the town of Stanley under Ordinances 7 of 1892 and

1 of 1893 was by Ordinance 5 of 1897 raised to 9*d.* in the pound, and appropriated exclusively to purposes of protection against fire. A sum of £115 19*s.* 0*d.* was received under this head.

Ordinance No. 3 of 1898, for the establishment of a fire brigade, provides that Insurance Companies carrying on business in Stanley shall contribute towards the maintenance of the steam fire-engine ⅛ per cent. per annum upon the capital sum assured.

A scale of charges for grazing animals within the limits of the town was put in force to run during the summer season.

For each animal for the whole season	8*s.*
„ „ „ per week during the season ...	1*s.*

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

This return shows at the close of the year—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Assets	66,782	12	5
Liabilities	68,950	8	7
Liabilities, excess ...	2,167	16	2

Assets are made up of—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1. Cash	1,693	8	4
2. Investments, Land Sales ...	20,304	0	4
Savings Bank ...	41,900	19	3
Intestates ...	568	16	1
3. Bills in transit	1,298	11	4
4. Advances due	1,016	17	1
Total ...	66,782	12	5

Invested funds show a gradual increase from year to year, thus :—

——	1896.	1897.	1898.
	£	£	£
Land Sales...	16,932	18,504	20,304
Savings Bank	34,222	33,041	41,900
Intestates	—	555	568
Surplus	1,441	2,893	—

In the annua return for 1898 land sales fund appear as a liability as well as an asset.

FALKLAND ISLANDS, 1898.

Entered as an asset only we should then have the total assets as £66,782 12*s.* 5*d.*; total liabilities as £48,646 8*s.* 3*d.*; excess of assets £18,136 4*s.* 2*d.*

This represents an advance on previous years, excess :—

1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
£	£	£	£
15,287	15,889	16,743	18,136

Liabilities.

These comprise—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Bills on Colony	900	0	0
„ London	625	10	8
Overpaid in London	470	17	10
Deposits, Savings Bank ...	43,172	14	1
Intestates	932	3	8
Aliens	48	0	0
Scab	1,111	4	3
Land Sales	20,304	0	4
Post Office	1,351	1	5
Pensions	34	16	4
Total ...	68,950	8	7

The deposits in the Government Savings Bank continue by far the largest item of liability and show a yearly increase :—

—	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
	£	£	£	£
Savings Bank ...	35,661	36,363	39,426	43,172

Liabilities for Post Office Mail Subsidy £1,350 and for Pensions £34 16*s.* 4*d.* are as in the previous year.

As mentioned above the proceeds of sale of Crown Lands, which are invested and amount to £20,304 0*s.* 4*d.*, are for the first time scheduled as a liability.

3173*—5

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Subjoined is a table showing the total Imports and Exports for the past five years :—

Country.	Imports.					Exports.				
	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ...	54,500	64,248	62,641	54,225	64,992	130,071	122,988	131,186	123,186	103,700
Germany	759	720	441	642	705	—	—	—	—	—
Uruguay	1,712	3,615	1,705	2,794	2,119	—	—	—	—	—
Chili	4,232	3,243	5,198	5,375	5,171	1,160	—	1,008	2,632	—
Argentina	1,067	—	—	250	—	570	—	—	687	3,284
Total ...	62,270	71,826	69,985	63,286	72,987	131,801	122,988	132,194	126,505	106,984

FALKLAND ISLANDS, 1898.

Details of the principal articles of import and export are given below and compared with the figures of the preceding year :—

Exports.

Article.	1897.		1898.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£
Wool	lbs. 4,301,500	107,537	lbs. 4,801,222	92,206
Sheep Skins ...	No. 72,700	9,087	No. 35,000	4,375
Seal Skins ...	No. 1,609	2,413	No. 571	787
Hides	No. 1,738	1,350	No. 1,800	1,000
Tallow ...	lbs. 213,880	1,782	lbs. 150,000	1,250
Live Sheep ...	—	—	No. 25,811	6,686

It will be seen that the output of wool has increased, whereas its total value is placed at a lower figure than in the previous year.

This is due to the low market rates that prevailed, the figures being mainly compiled from returns by the producers, who it is presumed rely in their turn upon their account sales.

So long as the land remains not fully stocked, and no adverse conditions intervene, the quantity of wool exported may be expected to show an increase from year to year. Experimental shipments to England of live sheep were made at the beginning of the year, and it is hoped that an outlet of this kind may be carried to a successful issue, and thus obviate the enormous waste which otherwise must annually recur in culling the flocks without any means offering for utilizing the carcases.

Imports.

Articles.	From United Kingdom.		From Germany.		From Uruguay.		From Chili.		From Argentina.	
	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Coal	3,242	2,689	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wearing apparel, Clothing material, including Boots and Haberdashery.	12,832	14,396	—	61	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hardware, Machinery	7,410	9,629	—	75	—	359	—	—	—	—
Oilmen's Stores, Groceries and provisions.	12,140	13,631	628	554	175	226	—	—	—	—
Live stock and Fodder	640	295	—	—	84	107	296	315	250	—
Building material, including Timber.	2,994	3,124	—	—	—	—	2,260	1,981	—	—

Imports—continued.

Articles.	From United Kingdom.		From Germany.		From Uruguay.		From Chili.		From Argentina.	
	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Liquor, Beer, Spirits, and wine of all kinds.	6,606	8,216	14	15	—	—	6	—	—	—
Tobacco and Cigars ...	2,657	1,925	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Specie	40	1,500	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ships Stores, Cordage, &c.	4,503	7,397	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sheep dip	1,161	2,190	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fruit and Vegetables	—	—	—	—	702	467	158	85	—	—
Cereals	—	—	—	—	1,833	960	2,656	2,790	—	—
Fencing	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	54,225	64,992	642	705	2,794	2,119	5,375	5,171	250	—

Land Grants and General Value of Land.

No land grants were made by the Crown during the year.

Practically the entire acreage of the Colony is sold or leased to some 36 farmers for pastoral purposes, the leased lands giving a total rental to the Crown of approximately £5,000 a year.

The freehold of large tracts of land was disposed of by the Government in 1890 for 3*s.* per acre, and at an auction of land in 1895, 4*s.* and a fraction per acre was bid. A plot of ½ acre in the outskirts of Stanley was re-purchased by Government for £74.

It is difficult to gauge the present value of land in the absence of business done.

Holders, judging from the lack of offers to sell, are not desirous of relinquishing their land, the worth of which may be estimated from the value of produce exported.

FALKLAND ISLANDS, 1898.

SHIPPING.

The year 1898 is the first for many years past during which volume of shipping entered and cleared during the past five years

Steam.

Country.	1894.				1895.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Germany...	14	23,738	14	23,738	14	26,093	14	26,093
England	1	1,893	1	1,893	1	1,893	1	1,893
Norway	6	714	6	714	—	—	—	—
Chili	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	21	26,345	21	26,345	15	27,986	15	27,986

Sailing.

Country.	1894.				1895.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No	Tons.
England	15	9,702	11	6,132	17	10,801	12	7,325
Germany...	—	—	—	—	1	1,603	1	1,603
United States	1	1,663	1	1,663	1	60	1	60
Chili	1	300	—	—	1	358	1	358
Norway	1	378	1	378	1	1,382	1	363
Italy	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Denmark...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Holland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	18	12,043	13	8,173	21	14,204	16	9,709

SHIPPING.

no vessel put in to Port Stanley for repair or in distress. The is shown in the subjoined table.

Steam.

1896.				1897.				1898.			
Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
20	36,339	20	36,339	19	41,543	19	41,543	17	42,539	17	42,539
1	3,528	1	3,528	—	—	—	—	5	12,232	5	12,232
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	6	1,204	6	1,204	11	1,945	11	1,945
21	39,867	21	39,867	25	42,747	25	42,747	33	56,716	33	56,716

Sailing.

1896.				1897.				1898.			
Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
8	6,606	6	4,278	10	6,919	10	6,019	4	1,327	3	1,877
3	5,482	2	970	3	2,848	3	2,848	—	—	—	—
1	1,498	3	4,782	—	—	—	—	2	1,775	1	1,710
6	1,036	5	589	2	471	2	471	4	731	4	731
4	1,807	3	2,885	—	—	—	—	1	305	1	305
—	—	—	—	1	1,711	1	1,711	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	1	348	—	—	1	401	1	401
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	276	1	276
22	16,429	19	13,504	17	11,397	16	11,049	13	5,415	11	5,300

FALKLAND ISLANDS, 1898.

LEGISLATION, LAWS, PROCLAMATIONS, &c.

Eleven Ordinances were passed during the year, the most important of which were :—

No. 3, creating a fire brigade and otherwise providing for action in the event of fire.

No. 4, relating to jurors and trials by jury.

No. 5, relating to gaols.

No. 6, relating to coroners, and adapting the proceedings to the peculiar conditions and necessities of life in the Colony.

No. 8, relating to trading companies.

No. 9, relating to harbours.

No. 10, relating to post office.

In all the Ordinances the aim has been to simplify as much as possible the local statute book, by the inclusion into one simple Ordinance of the salient provisions of many which are repealed.

Proclamations relating to coinage and to the Spanish American war were promulgated on the 5th and 19th of May respectively.

EDUCATION.

In the town of Stanley there are three schools :—

(1.) Government school, consisting of a senior and junior department, the former under the master, the latter in charge of his wife.

There is a mixed attendance at each school.

The senior school has on the roll 46 boys and 35 girls, or a total of 81, with an average attendance of boys 30·2, girls 25·8, giving a total of 56.

The junior or infant school numbers 37 boys and 38 girls, a total of 75, with an average attendance of 25 boys and 25·6 girls, in all 50·6.

(2.) State aided school carried on by the Roman Catholic Mission.

This school has a mixed attendance, and numbers on its roll 6 pupils, with an average attendance of 51·8.

(3.) Up to the departure in April of the Baptist Minister, a State aided school was kept up by him, having a total of some 30 boys and girls. These numbers have since diminished to the nominal figure of 13, with an attendance of 11 pupils.

Outside of Stanley, in the East Island camp, the Falkland Island Company maintain at their own cost an itinerant teacher on their property at Darwin. This teacher has on his books 18 boys and 16 girls, 34 in all. In the settlement of Darwin itself, a school having 24 pupils and an attendance of 17 is carried on by one of the Falkland Island Company's employees.

Education on the West Falklands is provided for by two Government paid itinerant schoolmasters who travel throughout the camp from house to house where there are children, devoting so many days or weeks to one family before moving on to the next.

Their work is one of considerable difficulty and no little discouragement, but it is fully compensated for in the knowledge that education, hitherto impossible, is brought within the reach of all parents who desire it.

Education in the Colony has been made compulsory by Loca Ordinance with the best results.

Government Savings Bank.

The annual report of the manager shows the satisfactory state of the Government Savings Bank.

The number of depositors increased during the year from 327 to 349, and the deposits from £38,270 to £42,760, representing an average increase from £117 to £121 per depositor. Invested bank funds have increased from £33,591 to £38,077.

Deposits to the amount of £10,961 were made in 1897-98 as compared with £8,779 in the year 1896-97, while £7,713 was withdrawn as against £8,110 in the latter year.

Judicial Statistics.

Prisons.

The local gaol has accommodation for seven prisoners at one time, allowing a separate cell for each.

During the year six persons were committed for short terms: two for offences against the person, three for offences against property, and one for breach of Local Ordinances.

Besides these, several men from Her Majesty's Ships were committed to gaol for breaches of naval discipline for varying periods up to 90 days.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

—	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
Number of offences reported to police	107	40	53	46
Number of summary convictions :—				
Offences against person	12	8	11	7
Offences against property ...	13	4	6	8
Other offences	42	14	27	28
Number of Supreme Court convictions :—				
Offences against person	2	—	—	—
Offences against property ...	—	—	2	—
Number of acquittals :—				
Inferior Courts	38	10	7	3
Supreme Courts	—	4	—	—

POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

Sixty-four births, being at the rate of 36 per thousand, and 27 deaths, at the rate of 15·4 per thousand, of the population were recorded during the year.

The abnormally high death-rate was caused by a boat accident wherein ten lives were lost.

A house to house visitation revealed the exact population of the town of Stanley to be 789, composed of:—Men, 185; women, 233; boys, 208; girls, 163.

The remaining population of the Islands, 964, is scattered among the sheep farms throughout the camp in the East and West Island.

Fourteen marriages were solemnized in the Colony during the year.

Generally the state of public health is good. Epidemics or visitations of colds and coughs of a more or less severe type recur each winter but with few fatal results.

Rainfall is not excessive. It rains often but in no great volume. The temperature is normally low, always cold, without, however, the extreme frosts, or summer heat, of England.

The prevailing winds from W., S.W. and S. are high and continuous, and make the cold felt far more than it would otherwise be. At the same time, they contribute largely to the healthy condition that prevails in the absence of organized sanitation.

MAIL SERVICE.

Mail service is carried on by steamers of the German Kosmos Company, which call once every three weeks for mails, passengers, and cargo. The average time to England by the direct homeward steamers is five weeks, and by the steamers which tranship mails into the Pacific boats at Punta Arenas a little over five weeks.

From England a mail is made up every three weeks for the Falkland Islands.

This is brought alternately by the Kosmos steamers which come out direct, bringing parcels as well, and occupy 30 days on the passage, and by the Pacific S.S. Company conveying letters only as far as Punta Arenas, where they are transhipped to a Kosmos steamer for conveyance to this Port. These latter mails occupy five weeks in transit.

The Kosmos Company receives an annual payment from the Local Government under a 5 years' contract, which expires on 1st July of 1900, of £2,500.

Within the Colony, mails are distributed by a contract schooner at an annual cost of £450 upon the arrival of each Kosmos steamer.

POSTAL STATISTICS.

The following are briefly the postal transactions during the year :—

Revenue :—

	£
Parcels Post	86
Commission on Money Orders ...	39
Sale of Stamps, &c.	816
Insufficient postage	8
Transit Rates, triennial	210
Total	£1,159

FALKLAND ISLANDS, 1898

Expenditure :—

	£
Salaries of Staff	25
Mail Contract, Kosmos Co.	2,500
Mail Contract, Local	385
Stores	85
	£3,995

Excess expended over receipts £1,886

Money Orders :—

Issued in Colony	£
To England	4,677
To English Colonies	73
To Foreign Countries	166
Total	£4,916

Number of letters carried in year :—

Ordinary	26,000
Registered	2,000
Papers, books, packets, &c.	34,000
Parcels to England	166
Parcels from England	1,039
Parcels rates	4,000
Parcels rates insured	200
Value of parcels carried	£2,200

The above figures are certain to be very largely increased during the current year, in consequence of the adoption by the Colony on the 25th December last year of Imperial penny postage letter rate, and of the reduced rates for parcels.

MILITARY.

The military element in the Colony is represented by a Volunteer Rifle Company of six officers, four non-commissioned officers, and 75 privates, armed with Martini-Henry rifles, and two field guns, nine-pounders.

The Corps is maintained from local revenue by a capitation grant of £2 per annum for each efficient. Last year £90 was received in respect of 45 efficients. These grants go towards purchase and upkeep of uniforms, &c.

GENERAL.

The only modifications in the civil establishment during the year were caused by the death of the senior constable, and by the creation of a new appointment as engineer in charge of Public Works which Mr. Charles Messervy took up on the 11th of August. W. Miller, Consul for the United States, was replaced by Mr. John E. Rowen, the issue to whom of Her Majesty's Exequatur was published on the 20th of July.

Except in the town of Stanley there are no made roads. The nature of the formation of the Islands does not lend itself readily to the laying out of roads, being in the main, on the East Island at least, soft and boggy. In such ground the making of hard permanent roads would be costly beyond either the present means or needs of the Colony.

There are no railways or canals.

Prevailing conditions do not favour immigration, inasmuch as the existing population more than suffices for existing demands.

So much is this the case that in the absence of any opening, numbers of the sons of Colonists have emigrated to the wider field offered by Patagonia, either as sheep farmers or as labourers.

The future prospects of trade present no great encouragement over and above what has obtained for years past; fresh industries may and doubtless will be opened up some day, but not until the population has been augmented and opportunities afforded for the profitable investment of capital.

There can be no question of the fitness of the climate (which is very similar to that in the wild districts of the West of Scotland and Ireland) for Europeans.

As stated above no opening at present offers for the introduction of labour.

Rates of wages can only be quoted at the figures that have ruled for years past, which have suffered no material alteration nor are likely to experience any modification so long as the population remains as it is.

FALKLAND ISLANDS, 1898.

Generally speaking wages rule as follows :—

Carpenters 1*s.* per hour.
Labourers 8*d.* per hour.
Domestic servants £2 a month.
Shepherds £5–£6 a month.
Farm labourers £5 a month.

In Stanley prices rule thus :—

Bread 9*d.* per 4lb. loaf, or 2¼*d.* per lb.
Mutton 2½*d.* per lb.
Beef 5*d.* per lb.
Vegetables 2*d.* per lb.
House rent from £1 to £4 a month.

All other articles are imported from England, and can be purchased locally at an advance of from 25 to 50 per cent. on home prices.

The social condition of the people is good, and the Colony is generally prosperous.

F. CRAIGIE-HALKETT,

Colonial Secretary.

Stanley,
Falkland Islands,
21st April, 1899.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

1899.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 244.

FIJI.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 217.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

October, 1898.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.; and
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1898.

[C.—9046–12.] *Price* 1*d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
213	St. Helena	1896
214	Seychelles	„
215	Mauritius	„
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1897
217	Fiji	1896
218	Ceylon	„
219	Lagos	„
220	Gold Coast	„
221	Labuan	„
222	British Guiana	1896–97
223	Rodrigues	1896
224	Basutoland	1896–97
225	Jamaica	„
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate	„
227	Leeward Islands	1896
228	Bermuda	1897
229	Gambia	„
230	Turks and Caicos Islands	„
231	Barbados	„
232	Lagos	„
233	St. Vincent	„
234	Sierra Leone	„
235	Falkland Islands	„
236	Straits Settlements	„
237	British New Guinea	1896–97
238	Bahamas...	1897
239	St. Lucia...	„
240	St. Helena	„
241	Trinidad and Tobago	„
242	British Honduras	„
243	Malta	„

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 244.

FIJI.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 217.)

GOVERNOR SIR G. T. M. O'BRIEN to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,

Suva, Fiji,

18th July, 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith two copies of the Fiji Blue Book for the year 1897, and to enclose copy of a report thereon by Mr. Allardyce, the Assistant Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,

G. T. M. O'BRIEN,

Governor.

I have the honour to submit the following report on the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1897 :—

(1) REVENUE.

The revenue for the years 1896 and 1897 has been as follows :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1896	73,868	18	9
1897	74,491	16	1
Net increase 1897	£622	17	4

The principal increases are under the heads of Native Taxes, £1,230 18*s.* 8*d.*, and Fees of Court, £808 10*s.* 4*d.* There was a decrease of £1,225 11*s.* 1*d.* on Customs Dues. Of this amount £348 7*s.* 11*d.* occurs under the head of rice and £91 4*s.* 5*d.* under that of soap, both being due to increased local production.

520*—75—9/98 Wt 21620 D & S—5 (B)

FIJI. 1897.

The following table shows the amount of revenue received under various heads during the past two years, with the proportion which each bears to the total revenue :—

—	1897.	Proportion to Total Revenue.	1896.	Proportion to Total Revenue.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
Customs ...	32,994 2 1	44·3	34,219 13 2	46·3
Native Taxes ...	19,217 5 6	25·8	17,986 6 10	24·3
Licenses ...	4,262 18 0	5·7	4,087 4 6	5·5
Stamp Duty ...	745 18 11	1·0	913 1 6	1·2
Total ...	£57,220 4 6		£57,206 14 0	

The proportion of revenue derived from these heads during the years in question is thus—

1896	77·4
1897	76·8

and is equal to 9*s.* 6*d.* per head of population.

The revenue from other sources (amounting to £17,271 11*s.* 7*d.* in the aggregate) is equal to 2*s.* 10*d.* per head of population for the year 1897.

The proportion which the revenue from Customs Duties bears to the total value of imports (excluding produce imported for exportation, on which no duty is levied) is as follows for the past two years :—

1896	14·4
1897	13·5

The total amount contributed by the natives in payment of their taxes during the two years was—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1896	26,551	1	2
1897	27,330	0	0

These amounts being in excess of the assessment, the following amounts were refunded to them :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1896	8,564	14	4
1897	8,459	2	2

(2) EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure for the past two years amounted to the following sums :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1896	73,099	3	1
1897	73,231	11	0

The excess of revenue over expenditure for these years was thus—

	£	s.	d.
1896	769	15	8
1897	1,260	5	1

The division of expenditure between personal emoluments and other charges for the two years is as follows :—

——	1896.			1897.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Personal Emoluments	38,648	8	2	37,724	13	9
Other Charges	34,450	14	11	35,506	17	3

The total expenditure of the Colony is equal per head of the population to the following sums :—

	s.	d.
1896	12	1
1897	12	0

The ratio which expenditure has borne to the value of the exports in each of the two years has been as follows :—

1896	1 to 5·9
1897	1 to 5·9

(3) Public Debt.

The Colonial Assets (beyond Public Debt) exceeded the liabilities at 31st December, 1897, by £12,277 16*s.* 2*d.*

The expenditure on Public Debt for 1897 was £9,297 0*s.* 1*d.*

The Debt was reduced by £4,640 5*s.* 1*d.* during the year, and at 31st December, 1897, stood as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Under Debenture	115,700	0	0
Due to Imperial Government ...	97,556	11	9
Total ...	£213,256	11	9

(4) Local Boards.

The Revenue and Expenditure of the Municipal and School Boards in the Colony during the year 1896 were as follows :—

——	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Suva Town Board	1,509	2	8	1,662	5	3
Levuka Town Board	879	1	0	994	15	7
Suva School Board	729	1	8	693	13	2
Levuka School Board	580	16	9	590	12	6
Total	£3,698	2	1	£3,941	6	6

The amount contributed by Government to the Municipalities was £250, and to the School Boards £689 5*s.* for the year.

(5) PENSIONS.

The Pension List amounted to £1,303 17*s.* 2*d.* at 31st December, 1897, having been increased during the year by £483 6*s.* 8*d.* Of this amount the sum of £250 is paid to the children of the late Governor, Sir J. B. Thurston.

(6) POPULATION.

The population of the Colony at 31st December, 1897, was estimated as follows :—

Europeans	3,401
Half-castes	1,231
Indians	12,025
Polynesians	2,278
Rotumans	2,143
Fijians	99,773
Others	947
Total	121,798

The density of population is about 15½ per square mile.

(7) RELIGIOUS MISSIONS.

The statistics returned by the two Missions at work in the Colony are as follows for the year 1897 :—

Wesleyan Mission.

Churches	972
Other Preaching Places	339
European Missionaries	11
Native Ministers	70
Catechists	63
Teachers	1,077
Local Preachers	2,042
Class Leaders	4,684
Church Members (English and Native) ...	30,652
On Trial for Membership	4,305
Catechumens	9,971
Day Schools	1,978
Day School Scholars	34,043
Day School Teachers	2,642
Sabbath Schools	1,652
Sabbath School Scholars	34,805
Sabbath School Teachers	2,666
Adherents	95,086

Roman Catholic Mission.

European Missionaries	28
Churches and Chapels	64
Training Institutions (Native)	3
Native Teachers	180
European Sisters	24
Adherents	9,325
Schools for Natives	136
Schools for Europeans	3
Native Scholars	1,705
European Teachers...	8
European Scholars	138

(8) EDUCATION.

There are two State-aided English Schools and five English Schools conducted by the Roman Catholic Mission. The aggregate average attendance at these seven schools was 309. The Native Technical School had 73 students in residence during the year.

The particulars with regard to Native Mission Schools are given under the head of "Religious Missions."

(9) CURRENCY.

Accounts are kept in British sterling currency and in imperial weights and measures.

The estimated amount of coin in circulation is £96,000, and the amount of paper money £4,000.

(10) IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

(Taken from Receiver-General's Report.)

The following table shows the value of the imports, exports, and total trade of the Colony (exclusive of bullion and specie) during the four years under review :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total Trade.
	£	£	£
1894	285,981	581,652	867,633
1895	241,759	332,209	573,968
1896	242,492	435,342	677,834
1897	248,748	431,860	680,608

FIJI. 1897

The total trade of the Colony during the year 1897 was divided as follows :—

Country.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.	Percentage of Total Trade.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
New South Wales	196,361 2 2	103,011 13 0	299,372 15 2	43·985
New Zealand ...	34,728 18 5	216,335 8 7	251,064 7 0	36·887
Victoria	207 2 3	96,474 3 0	96,681 5 3	14·204
Total Australasian Colonies	231,297 2 10	415,821 4 7	647,118 7 5	95·076
Azores	—	12,505 0 0	12,505 0 0	1·852
Canada	4,873 4 10	15 6 0	4,888 10 10	·717
Futuna	1,688 12 0	—	1,688 12 0	·247
Hawaiian Islands	—	10 10 0	10 10 0	·001
India	4,722 8 8	—	4,722 8 8	·693
Line Islands ...	30 5 7	—	30 5 7	·003
New Caledonia...	683 10 0	—	683 10 0	·100
Samoa	275 5 4	40 4 0	315 9 4	·045
Tonga	117 0 0	2,494 19 4	2,611 19 4	·382
United Kingdom	1,183 19 7	—	1,183 19 7	·172
United States ...	1,268 15 10	—	1,268 15 10	·187
Wallis Island ...	2,607 19 4	972 15 5	3,580 14 9	·525
Total ... £	248,748 4 0	431,859 19 4	680,608 3 4	—

Sugar, copra, and green fruit remain the three staple products of the Colony. The quantity and value of these exports during the past four years have been—

Year.	Sugar.		Green Fruit.	Copra.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	£	£	Tons.	£
1894	27,265	436,245	49,115	5,833	57,261
1895	23,210	208,889	20,987	9,244	79,726
1896	27,334	336,929	18,488	5,487	48,950
1897	26,991	323,830	16,514	7,757	70,182

The foregoing figures show that over 90 per cent. of the total trade of the Colony was transacted with the three Australasian Colonies of New South Wales, New Zealand, and Victoria, in the proportion of 43·9, 36·8, and 14·2 per cent., respectively. But, as a matter of fact, many of the importations are of German origin, and it is noticeable that within the last few years there has been a steady increase of the following "made in Germany" articles, *i.e.*, prints, glassware, sewing machines, and enamelled ware.

(11) Navigation.

During the year 1897, 102 steam ships and 27 sailing vessels, of an aggregate tonnage of 124,128, entered the two ports of the Colony from abroad.

The Interinsular trade is carried on by a subsidised steamer and a fleet of small vessels. The Interinsular fleet comprises 73 European-owned vessels of 1,072 tons in the aggregate, and 116 Native-owned vessels of a total tonnage of 1,104 tons, outside a large number of undecked vessels. In the expression "Native-owned vessels" are included vessels owned by Fijians, Half-castes, Indians, and Polynesians. No account is taken of Fijian canoes in this statement. Daily communication exists between Suva and Rewa and Navua by means of steam launches.

(12) Agriculture.

The acreage of the Colony is estimated at 4,953,920. The estimated acreage of cultivated land in the Colony is 45,970.

FIJI. 1897.

leaving an estimated acreage of uncultivated land, or of land under cultivation by natives for food purposes only, of 4,907,950.

The cultivated land, exclusive of land cultivated by natives solely for purposes of food, was under crop during the year as follows :—

	Acres.
Peanuts	267
Bananas	1,254
Pine-apples	45
Beans	13
Cocoanuts	19,912
Maize	407
Sugar Cane	23,118
Tobacco	75
Rice	431
Yams	160
Tea	210
Coffee	4
Kumalas and potatoes	21
Limes	2
Other products	51
Total	45,970

The number of live stock in the Colony at the end of the year was—

Horses	1,832
Horned cattle	15,136
Sheep	4,716
Goats	4,049

During the past year the Fijians in the vicinity of the Sugar Mill at Nausori and Rewa cultivated some 400 acres, yielding 7,400 tons of cane, valued at £4,233. In the Navua district they cultivated 1,084 tons of cane, valued at £391. The cultivation of sugar cane by unindentured Indian coolies has considerably increased. On the Rewa river an area of 710 acres, yielding 14,574 tons of cane, valued at £8,652, was cultivated by these people. The number of coolies settled on these 710 acres and dependent on cane growing is estimated at 250 men, 110 women, and 130 children. In the Navua district 234 unindentured Indian

coolies cultivated some 826 acres of cane. The quantity and value of cane grown by them during the past four years has been as follows:—

Year.	Tons.	Value.
		£
1894	1,676	1,129
1895	3,566	2,447
1896	10,353	5,974
1897	12,491	8,002

(13) MANUFACTORIES, &C.

There were at work in the Colony during the year 5 sugar mills, one tea factory, 13 boatbuilding yards, and 2 soap factories.

(14) METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

The following table gives the Meteorological conditions of the year 1897:—

SYNOPSIS OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

Month of	At 9 a.m. Local Time, being																
	Means of Attached Thermometer.	Barometer. Corrected and reduced to 32° Fahr. and Mean Sea Level	Temperature. Corrected. Dry Bulb.	Temperature. Corrected. Wet Bulb.	Temperature. Entered to Previous Day. Maximum.	Temperature. Entered to Previous Day. Minimum.	Humidity. Dew Point.	Humidity. Vapour in Cubic Foot of Air.	Humidity. Humidity Sat. = 100.	Humidity. Elastic Force of Aqueous Vapour.	Wind. Force (0 to 12).	Cloud. Amount of Cloud (0 to 10).	Rain. Entered to Previous Day.	Rain. Estimated Duration.	Rain. Total rain for the Month.	Rain. Maximum Rainfall.	Rain. Date.
	°		°	°	°	°	°	grs.	°	ins.			ins.	h. m.	ins.	in.	
January ..	81	29·898	82	74	86·0	74·0	69·6	7·6	67	0·731	2	5	0·07	0.21	2·27	0·84	10th.
February ..	83	29·939	83	76	88·0	74·0	71·4	7·8	67	0·766	2	4	0·24	0.49	6·60	3·47	2nd.
March	83	29·859	83	78	91·8	76·0	73·0	7·7	66	0·816	1	4	0·24	2.23	7·42	2·49	29th.
April	80	29·894	80	76	84·0	75·0	73·8	8·9	80	0·837	1	6	0·66	5.52	19·65	3·84	19th.
May	79	30·022	80	75	85·0	73·0	71·1	8·2	74	0·761	2	5	0·15	3.52	4·67	0·89	17th.
June	75	30·100	76	71	80·0	72·0	66·5	7·1	74	0·659	2	8	0·09	2.38	2·62	0·35	19th.
July	74	30·086	75	70	78·9	69·0	66·1	7·0	76	0·651	2	6	0·15	3.19	4·61	1·08	7th.
August	75	30·057	76	71	81·7	69·0	66·8	7·2	76	0·673	2	5	0·12	2.15	3·73	1·02	21st.
September ..	84	30·052	77	71	81·4	69·7	65·9	7·0	69	0·650	2	5	0·09	1.33	2·57	0·61	13th.
October ..	78	30·033	80	72	83·1	71·5	68·0	7·4	68	0·693	2	5	0·13	1.49	3·90	1·00	13th.
November ..	79	29·945	80	73	83·3	72·5	67·9	7·3	67	0·690	3	7	0·50	3.22	14·86	4·23	10th.
December ..	84	29·818	80	77	84·0	74·0	72·7	8·5	77	0·791	2	7	0·97	5 29	20·12	5·45	18th.
Means and Totals.	79·7	29·975	79	74	83·9	72·5	69·4	7·6	72	0·726	2	6	0·28	2.48	7·75	2·11	—

EXTREMES FOR THE YEAR.

Highest corrected reading of Barometer—30·288 on 29th June, at 9 a.m.

Lowest corrected reading of Barometer—29·656 on 20th December, at 3 p.m.

Highest Temperature in Shade—98 on 14th March.

Lowest Temperature in Shade—62 on 2nd August.

TAKEN AT SUVA, FIJI, DURING 1897.

11h. 53m. 44s. fast of Greenwich.

Barometer.		Date.		Weather.					Wind.									Month of
				No. of Days of					No. of Observations of									
Highest Reading, 9 a.m.	Lowest Reading, 3 p.m.	Date of Highest Reading.	Date of Lowest Reading.	Rain.	Thunder-storms.	Clear Sky.	Overcast.	Gales.	N.	N.E.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.	N.W.	Calms.	
29·992	29·698	9th.	30th.	25	0	0	3	0	1	9	10	11	0	0	0	0	0	January.
30·052	29·764	4th.	26th.	17	3	0	2	0	4	5	14	3	1	0	1	0	0	February.
30·044	29·723	23rd.	5th.	21	14	1	3	0	4	14	8	1	3	1	0	0	0	March.
30·012	29·690	30th.	25th.	25	0	2	14	0	2	4	17	2	1	3	0	1	0	April.
30·201	29·764	28th.	23rd.	29	3	0	5	0	5	3	17	3	2	1	0	0	0	May.
30·288	29·912	29th.	8th.	28	0	0	21	0	0	3	14	10	3	0	0	0	0	June.
30·198	29·909	23rd.	18th.	2	0	0	11	0	2	7	9	11	1	0	0	1	0	July.
30·124	29·861	14th.	11th.	17	0	1	9	0	3	6	7	13	1	1	0	0	0	August.
30·115	29·824	21st.	15th.	15	0	2	8	0	1	6	11	10	2	0	0	0	0	September
30·119	29·848	31st.	12th.	20	1	1	6	0	0	5	15	7	3	1	0	0	0	October.
30·096	29·674	1st.	11th.	23	2	0	8	1	1	7	16	6	0	0	0	0	0	November.
29·967	29·656	6th.	22nd.	27	8	0	10	0	4	8	11	5	0	3	0	0	0	December.
30·101	29·775	—	—	21	31	7	100	1	27	77	149	82	17	10	1	2	0	Means and Totals.

EXTREMES FOR THE YEAR.

Greatest Daily Rainfall—5·45 on 18th December.

Total Rainfall for the Year—93·02.

Number of Days on which Rain fell—247.

J. D. W. VAUGHAN, F.R.M.S., F.R.G.S., &c.,
Government Meteorologist.

(15) POSTAL.

The extent of Postal communication to and within the Colony is indicated by the following statement :—

—	Internal.	External.				Total.
		United Kingdom.		Other places.		
		From	To	From	To	
Letters ... ... / Post cards ...	257,020	7,240	11,088	65,935	54,910	396,193
Newspapers ...	172,576	30,107	3,068	105,373	8,839	320,163
Book-packets, samples, &c., circulars.	29,084	4,282	1,152	16,563	3,798	54,879
Parcels	—	311	94	572	70	1,047
Telegrams ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Including registered ...		Despatched 5,940		Received 5,589		

Money Order Conventions were in force with Great Britain and Canada. Money Orders were issued for £173 3*s.* 9*d.*, and paid for £169 11*s.* 7*d.*

(16) PUBLIC WORKS.

During the year a sum of £117 3*s.* 8*d.* was expended on opening up the mouth of the Sigatoka river in connection with the banana industry. A telephone line is in process of construction from Suva to Ba viâ Nausori, Viria, Vunidawa, and Nadarivatu, to be worked by the Government, the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, and the Union Steam Shipping Company. The length of the line is 100 miles.

The estimated length of tracks and bridle paths in the Colony is 1,067 miles.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE E.C.

1898.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 268.

FIJI.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1898.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 244)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

August, 1899.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C., and
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1899.

[C.—9498–2.] *Price* 1½*d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
243	Malta	1897
244	Fiji	,,
245	Hong Kong	,,
246	Leeward Islands	,,
247	Grenada	,,
248	Gibraltar	,,
249	Gold Coast	,,
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues	,,
251	British Solomon Islands	1897–98
252	Seychelles	1897
253	Labuan	,,
254	Ceylon	,,
255	Basutoland	1897–98
256	Newfoundland	1896–97
257	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1898
258	British New Guinea	1897–98
259	Bermuda	1898
260	Niger.—West African Frontier Force ...	1897–98
261	Jamaica	,,
262	Barbados	1898
263	Falkland Islands	,,
264	Gambia	,,
265	St. Helena	,,
266	Leeward Islands	,,
267	St. Lucia	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.

No. 268.

FIJI.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 244.)

GOVERNOR SIR G. T. M. O'BRIEN to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,

Suva,

28th June, 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith two copies of the Fiji Blue Book for the year 1898, and to enclose copy of a report thereon by Mr. Allardyce, the Assistant Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,

G. T. M. O'BRIEN.

3454*—75—8/99 Wt 21935 D & S—5 (B)

FIJI.
1898.

BLUE BOOK REPORT FOR 1898.

I have the honour to submit the following report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1898 :—

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) *General Revenue and Expenditure.*

The following statement shows the amount of revenue received, under various heads, for the years 1898 and 1897 :—

Head of Revenue.	1898.			1897.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Customs	45,300	10	3	32,994	2	1
Port, Harbour, Wharf, and Lighthouse Dues.	3,944	4	8	4,254	8	2
Native Taxes	18,923	0	6	19,217	5	6
Licenses, Excise, and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified.	8,051	0	9	7,298	3	10
Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services, and Reimbursements in aid.	8,840	5	10	6,846	13	11
Post Office	2,555	12	10	2,686	6	1
Rent of Government Property ...	544	16	7	561	8	0
Interest	373	2	4	0	12	0
Miscellaneous Receipts...	5,545	10	9	503	19	3
Land Sales and Premia on Leases ...	86	11	0	128	17	3
Total ... ... £	94,164	15	6	74,491	16	1

The following is a statement of the expenditure for the years 1898 and 1897 under the various heads :—

Head of Expenditure.	1898.			1897.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Charges on Account of Public Debt ...	9,290	5	1	9,297	0	1
Pensions	1,546	4	8	873	4	2
The Governor and Legislature ...	2,652	4	11	2,515	4	0
Colonial Secretary's Department ...	1,060	1	10	1,130	5	3
Government Printing Office	1,756	4	6	1,522	7	8
Audit Department	712	0	7	723	15	0
Postal Department	2,542	10	8	2,664	6	1
Provincial Department	5,776	7	0	5,738	14	2
Treasury...	4,006	14	11	3,760	4	5
Customs Department	2,709	13	6	2,688	6	6
Port and Marine Department... ...	1,647	6	1	1,464	9	4
Immigration Department	6,563	17	1	7,336	12	10
Judicial and Legal Departments ...	8,894	1	4	8,693	5	0
Police Department	2,842	5	0	2,989	1	1
Armed Native Constabulary	2,108	15	3	1,836	6	1
Prisons Department	3,467	2	2	2,975	7	4
Medical Department	4.332	18	2	4,547	7	5
Hospital and Lunatic Asylum ...	2,305	19	8	2,240	0	6
Education	1,534	6	4	1,595	1	1
Transport	1,318	0	9	1,434	8	5
Transport—Special Expenditure (on account).	84	18	7	—		
Miscellaneous	1,627	19	5	1,165	15	8
Lands, Works, and Survey Department	1,706	1	7	1,670	6	11
Public Works Annually Recurrent ...	2,088	5	0	2,488	0	9
	72,574	4	1	71,349	9	9
Public Works, Extraordinary ...	3,320	4	5	1,882	1	3
Deposit for Expenditure on Public Works in 1899.	11,700	0	0	—		
Total ... £	87,594	8	6	73,231	11	0

The total revenue and expenditure during the past five years is as follows :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1894	80,053 19 0	72,203 15 4
1895	78,240 5 9	76,204 3 11
1896	73,868 18 9	73,099 3 1
1897	74,491 16 1	73,231 11 0
1898	94,164 15 6	87,594 8 6

The increased revenue has mainly accrued under the heads of "Customs" and "Miscellaneous." The increase under the latter head is due to an extraordinary receipt of £4,229 from Return Passages Fund on account of hospital fees of destitute Indians.

The surplus of revenue over expenditure, after placing £11,700 on deposit for expenditure on public works during 1899, amounted to £6,570.

(B.) *Important Changes in Taxation.*

The increase in the amount of Customs dues is due chiefly to the new tariff which came into force on the 10th March, 1898. Of the total increase of £12,300 in Customs dues some £9,800 may be attributed to this cause, and £2,500 to improvement in trade. The principal alterations in the Customs tariff consist of the increase of the *ad valorem* duties on hollowware, furniture, and galvanised manufactures from 10 per cent. to 12½ per cent. The following articles, previously admitted free, are now dutiable, viz., breadstuffs, meats, and sugar. The duty on certain lines of drapery has also been altered from an *ad valorem* to a specific rate.

(C.) *Assets and Liabilities.*

The following is a statement of the assets and liabilities of the Colony at 31st December, 1898 :—

Assets.			*Liabilities.*	
PUBLIC TRUST ACCOUNT—		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Fixed Deposits at Interest with the Bank of New Zealand ...	£19,395 15 3			
Invested in Stocks through the Crown Agents for the Colonies	9,978 8 5			
Bank of New Zealand : Credit Balance, 31st December, 1898	2,598 19 11			
Revenue paid into the Bank in January, 1899, but brought to account in December ...	170 14 9		PUBLIC TRUST ACCOUNT—	
		32,143 18 4	Amount to Credit of above Account on the 31st December, 1898...	32,143 18 4
INDIAN IMMIGRANTS' RETURN-PASSAGES FUND—				
Invested in Stocks through the Crown Agents for the Colonies	£37,021 8 8			
Bill sent to Crown Agents for investment (maturing) ...	3,000 0 0			
Carried forward ...	£40,021 8 8	£32,143 18 4	Carried forward ...	£32,143 18 4

(C.) *Assets and Liabilities*—cont.

Assets.			*Liabilities.*		
		£ *s.* *d.*			£ *s.* *d.*
Brought forward ...	£40,021 8 8	32,143 18 4	Brought forward ...		32,143 18 4
INDIAN IMMIGRANTS' RETURN PASSAGES FUND—*cont.*			INDIAN IMMIGRANTS' RETURN-PASSAGES FUND—		
Bank of New Zealand: Credit Balance, 31st December, 1898	723 12 3	40,745 0 11	Amount to Credit of above Account on the 31st December, 1898...		40,745 0 11
DECEASED IMMIGRANTS' SUSPENSE ACCOUNT—			DECEASED IMMIGRANTS' SUSPENSE ACCOUNT—		
Fixed Deposit at Interest ...	£150 0 0		Amount to Credit of above Account on the 31st December, 1898...		221 0 6
Bank of New Zealand: Credit Balance, 31st December, 1898	71 0 6	221 0 6			
INTESTATE AND VACANT ESTATES ACCOUNT—			INTESTATE AND VACANT ESTATES ACCOUNT—		
			Cheque Unpaid, 31st December, 1898	£4 0 0	
Fixed Deposit at Interest with the Bank of New Zealand ...	£400 0 0		Amount to Credit of above Account on the 31st December, 1898	619 9 3	
Bank of New Zealand: Credit Balance, 31st December, 1898	223 9 3	623 6 3			623 9 3

INDIAN IMMIGRANTS' INTRODUCTION FUND—								
Fixed Deposit at Interest with the Bank of New Zealand ...	£5,180	0	0					
Amount brought to account in December, 1898, but paid into Bank in January, 1899	92	12	0					
Bank of New Zealand: Credit Balance, 31st December, 1898	1,234	14	0					
Emigration Agent, Calcutta: Credit Balance, 30th September, 1898	221	3	7					
				6,728	9	7		
PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENT DEPOSIT ACCOUNT—								
Fixed Deposits at Interest with the Bank of New Zealand ...	£6,887	8	5					
Remitted to Crown Agents for investment (Bill maturing)...	4,200	0	0					
Credit Balance at Bank of New Zealand	1,901	9	6					
				12,988	17	11		
IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT.—Amounts due to the Department				5,800	19	7		
ADVANCE ACCOUNT.—Amounts recoverable ...				17	10	0		
Carried forward ...				£99,269	6	1		
INDIAN IMMIGRANTS' INTRODUCTION FUND—								
Cheques Unpaid on the 31st December, 1898				£96	14	9		
Amount to Credit of above Account on the 31st December, 1898				6,631	14	10		
							6,728	9 7
PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENT DEPOSIT ACCOUNT—								
Cheques Unpaid on the 31st December, 1898				£1,638	18	11		
Amount to Credit of above Account on the 31st December, 1898				11,349	19	0		
							12,988	17 11
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT.—Amounts payable							36	3 4
RETURNING POLYNESIANS.—Amount payable ...							40	5 5
Carried forward ...							£93,527	5 3

(C.) *Assets and Liabilities*—cont.

Assets	£	*s.*	*d.*	*Liabilities.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Brought forward ...	£99,269	6	1	Brought forward ...	£93,527	5	3
CROWN AGENTS.—Bills remitted on Public Account (maturing)	13,000	0	0	Capital Sum, proceeds of the sale of Native Lands, on which interest at 3 per cent. per annum is paid by the Crown to the Native Owners ...	2,734	13	4
WORKS ADVANCE ACCOUNT—Amount recoverable	156	18	4	PUBLIC ACCOUNT.—Cheques Outstanding on the 31st December	6,225	1	5
Amounts placed on Fixed Deposit with the Bank of New Zealand on Public Account	10,000	0	0	Overpayment into the Bank in December ...	0	0	8
ROTUMA ADVANCE ACCOUNT.—Amounts recoverable	201	0	2	CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES: Debit balance on the 31st December, 1898	1,098	9	6
Revenue paid into Bank in January and February, 1899, belonging to and brought to account in December, 1898	2,819	14	1	PUBLIC WORKS DEPOSIT ACCOUNT.—Amounts payable	11,700	0	0
					115,285	10	2
PUBLIC ACCOUNT.—Credit Balance with the Bank of New Zealand	7,063	2	9				
				Excess of Assets ... ... £	17,224	11	3
Total ... £	132,510	1	5	Total ... £	132,510	1	5

(D.) *Public Debt.*

The public debt of the Colony at 31st December, 1898, amounted to £209,216 6*s.* 8*d.* Of this, £96,516 6*s.* 8*d.* is an Imperial advance, without interest, which is being repaid at the rate of £1,040 5*s.* 1*d.* per annum. The remainder represents £112,700 debentures bearing interest at 4½ per cent. A sum of £1,500 per annum is applied to the redemption of these debentures. The interest on debentures so redeemed is applied to the further reduction of the debt.

(E.) *Currency.*

The legal tender currency, and the only coin in circulation, is British sterling. The amount of coin in circulation is estimated at £70,000. The Bank of New Zealand has two branches in the Colony, one in Suva and one in Levuka.

(F.) *Municipal Revenue and Expenditure.*

The following statements show the revenue and expenditure during the last five years of the Suva and Levuka Town Boards and the Suva and Levuka School Boards :—

Year.	Suva Town Board.		Levuka Town Board.	
	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£
1894 ...	1,684	1,581	961	977
1895 ...	1,670	1,537	1,155	980
1896 ...	1,680	1,506	1,238	1,129
1897 ...	1,509	1,662	879	995
1898 ...	1,603	1,600	980	976

Year.	Suva School Board.		Levuka School Board.	
	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£
1894 ...	679	814	518	518
1895 ...	742	723	632	612
1896 ...	719	678	552	567
1897 ...	729	694	581	591
1898 ...	726	722	542	520

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) *Imports and Exports.*

The following statement shows the value of the principal items of import during the past two years :—

Nature of Import.	1897.	1898.
	£	£
1. Bacon and hams	1,254	1,200
2. Bags and sugar-mats	6,862	7,145
3. Beer	3,059	2,872
4. Books	982	779
5. Boots and shoes	3,241	3,009
6. Breadstuffs and biscuits	23,085	22,366
7. Butter	2,580	3,403
8. Coal	14,274	11,954
9. Cordage	1,195	1,279
10. Cutlery	1,321	1,403
11. Drapery	49,254	45,134
12. Drugs	2,467	2,805
13. Fish	2,225	1,966
14. Furniture	1,467	1,189
15. Galvanised iron and goods	3,039	3,448
16. Glassware and crockery	1,737	1,820
17. Hardware	12,807	14,776
18. Iron—bar, rod, sheet, rails, and pipes ...	3,564	2,502
19. Jewellery	1,373	1,445

(A.) *Imports and Exports*—cont.

Nature of Import.	1897.	1898.
	£	£
20. Leatherware	1,247	1,708
21. Live stock	4,457	5,607
22. Machinery	10,710	4,082
23. Machinery—agricultural	1,326	1,586
24. Manure	7,390	4,156
25. Meats	9,234	9,302
26. Oils	6,227	6,591
27. Oats	486	—
28. Pickles and oilstores	3,017	936
29. Paints	1,470	1,482
30. Produce	8,541	2,119
31. Rice	11,205	8,730
32. Ship chandlery	1,841	1,427
33. Soap	714	637
34. Spirits	2,829	3,180
35. Stationery	2,698	2,571
36. Sugar	4,088	2,663
37. Timber...	4,280	5,262
38. Tobacco	1,702	1,923
39. Vegetables and green fruit	3,063	3,880
40. Wines	1,479	1,264
41. Woodenware	1,730	530

FIJI. 1898.

The following table shows the value of the total imports and exports during the past five years :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1894	285,981	581,652
1895	241,759	332,209
1896	242,492	435,342
1897	248,748	431,860
1898	234,850	534,105

The bulk of the goods imported into this Colony come from Sydney, and there is no means of telling whether they are of British or foreign manufacture. As far as can be ascertained, there has been a slight increase in the importation of foreign drapery and enamelled goods.

The staple products of the Colony are sugar, copra, green fruit, and colonial distilled spirit. The quantity and value of these exports during the past five years have been :—

Year.	Sugar.		Copra.		Green Fruit.	Colonial Distilled Spirit.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	£	Gallons.	£
1894	27,265	436,245	5,833	57,257	49,115	133,971	16,746
1895	23 210	208,889	9,244	79,726	20,987	—	—
1896	27,334	336,929	5,487	48,950	18,488	78,890	10,163
1897	26,991	323,830	7,757	70,182	16,514	15,041	1,180
1898	34,156	409,884	6,474	63,140	25,478	111,088	13,886

The export of green fruit has increased. Large areas have been planted by the natives under agreement. The natives have also planted considerable areas with cocoa-nuts, and it is therefore probable that there will, in course of time, be an increase in the production of copra.

(B.) *Manufactures.*

There are at present at work in the Colony 5 sugar mills, with a nominal daily output of 204 tons of dried sugar ; 1 tea factory, with a nominal daily output of 400 lbs. of dried tea ; 16 boat-building yards ; 2 soap works ; and 2 saw-mills.

(C.) *Agricultural Industries and Botanical Stations.*

The principal agricultural industry in the Colony is the cultivation of sugar. The Colonial Sugar Refining Co., Ltd., owning three mills in this Colony, are the largest producers. The total area under sugar-cane cultivation is estimated at 22,078 acres, from which was produced 342,998 tons of cane.

The following statement gives the particulars available as to the cultivation of sugar-cane by Fijians in the vicinity of the various sugar centres during 1898 :—

District.	Area.	Quantity.	Value.
	Acres.	Tons.	£
Rewa	422	6,653	3,811
Ba	71	1,533	893
Navua	92	604	300
Labasa	137	1,575	830

The cultivation of cane by Indian coolies who have completed their term of indenture is increasing. During the past year they cultivated, at Rewa, 848 acres, producing 16,408 tons of cane, valued at £8,909. At Navua, during the same period, they cultivated 1,565 acres, producing 24,594 tons of sugar-cane, valued at £14,876.

With a view to inducing Indian immigrants whose terms of indentures have expired to remain in the Colony, Government has acquired three blocks of land, aggregating some 4,000 acres, which is being leased to these people on easy terms. Two of the blocks are situated in the Labasa district and are suitable for the cultivation of sugar-cane, &c., and for grazing cattle. The third block consists of a strip of land half a mile wide on either side of the road now being formed between Suva and Rewa. It contains some 1,800 acres, part of which has been blocked off and will shortly be offered for lease.

There is a botanic station at Suva. Economic plants, as coffee, cacao, ramie, &c., are raised and supplied to planters free of cost.

(D.) *Land Grants and General Value of Land.*

Only one Crown grant was issued during the year, for 1 acre 2 roods 5 poles.

The total area of Crown land in the Colony does not exceed 7,000 acres. The area of land held by Europeans under Crown grant is 423,018 acres.

Land may be leased from the native owners, through the Crown. The rental varies from 3*s.* to 15*s.* per acre per annum.

(E.) *Shipping.*

The following statement shows the number and tonnage, and nationality, of the steam and sailing vessels entered and cleared during the past two years at the two ports of entry :—

Nationality.	Description.	Entered.				Cleared.			
		1897.		1898.		1897.		1898.	
		No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British	Steam	102	113,472	103	126,228	100	112,731	104	125,653
„	Sailing	17	6,576	12	3,074	17	1,951	12	2,922
American	„	3	703	2	680	3	703	2	680
Norwegian	„	5	2,965	7	2,857	6	3,544	6	2,599
Russian	„	—	—	1	399	—	—	1	399
French	Steam	1	358	—	—	1	358	—	—
German	Sailing	—	—	1	468	—	—	1	468
Tongan	„	1	54	1	46	—	—	1	46

The following is a comparative statement of the total shipping, inwards and outwards, during the past five years :—

Year.	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.
1894	128,662	130,251	258,913
1895	118,533	116,869	235,402
1896	115,470	115,586	231,056
1897	124,128	123,887	248,015
1898	133,752	132,767	266,519

The increase shown above is mainly in British shipping, and is accounted for by the increased trade with the Australasian Colonies.

III.—LEGISLATION.

The following are the principal Ordinances passed during 1898 :—

I. The Customs Duties Ordinance.—A more uniform tariff is enacted and the Customs dues are slightly increased.

IV. To amend the law relating to Perjury.—By this Ordinance a summary penalty is provided for perjury in certain cases.

VIII. To amend the Native Lands Ordinance, 1892.—Facilitates the leasing of small areas of native lands by doing away with the necessity for survey by a surveyor.

X. To provide for the establishment and regulation of a Volunteer Force.—This Ordinance provides for the establishment of a volunteer force for the purpose of repelling invasion or quelling local disturbances.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The Public Education Ordinance, 1890, provides for the election of School Boards within constituted districts (at present only Suva and Levuka are so constituted). The expenses of the Boards are paid out of the "School Fund" of each district, consisting (1) of an annual grant on the average attendance, on a scale fixed by the Governor in Council, and (2) of a contribution from the rating authorities of the amount required for school purposes beyond the Government grant. Education is free to

FIJI. 1898.

children within the school districts between six and fourteen years of age. The ordinary subjects of an English education are taught.

There are two common schools under these School Boards, one in Suva with 4 teachers and 94 scholars, and one in Levuka with 2 teachers and 59 scholars. There are also 5 Roman Catholic schools for Europeans, with an attendance of 149.

There is a Government technical school where 70 native youths are instructed in primary education (including English), carpentry, boat building, planting, and the care of stock.

The Wesleyan and Roman Catholic missions provide entirely for the education of the natives throughout the group. The former have 1,926 schools, with 2,723 teachers and 33,369 scholars. The latter have 146 schools, with 178 teachers and 1,815 scholars.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) *Hospitals.*

There is a hospital at Suva, maintained by Government. It is under the charge of a resident medical officer assisted by two European nurses. During 1898 there were 1,177 patients admitted, including 82 Europeans. The revenue for the year amounted to £2,181 5*s.* 3*d.* and the expenditure (exclusive of salary of medical officer) to £1,825 16*s.* 4*d.*

(B.) *Asylums.*

The lunatic asylum at Suva is under the charge of an European warder. The chief medical officer is superintendent. There were 9 admissions during 1898. Revenue, £52 5*s.* 3*d.*; expenditure, £480 3*s.* 4*d.*

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) *Police.*

The police force in the two towns of Suva and Levuka consists of 1 European inspector, 1 European sergeant, 1 native inspector, 2 native sergeants, 3 native corporals, 1 Indian and 25 native constables, under the control of the Superintendent of Police. In addition to the above there are the rural police, consisting of 3 European sergeants, 13 native sergeants, and 34 constables under the control of the magistrates in the various districts.

(B.) *Prisons.*

There are two gaols, one at Suva and one at Levuka, under the charge of the Superintendent of Prisons. There are also gaols attached to the various magistrates' stations. All prisoners serving sentences exceeding three months are sent to Suva Gaol. The total number of prisoners committed to Suva and Levuka Gaols during 1898 was 765. Prisoners are employed on public works, roads, and as boats' crews and office messengers, &c.

(C.) *Criminal Statistics.*

During 1898 the total number of offences reported to the police and magistrates was 7,760. Of these 969 were offences against the person, 478 were larceny, 314 were offences against property, and 5,999 were other offences—being principally breaches of the Labour Ordinances. Of the 7,760 offences reported, 69 were committed to the Supreme Court, 5,121 were summarily dealt with, and 2,570 were dismissed.

VII.—Vital Statistics.

The following statement shows the population as estimated at 31st December, 1898, compared with the figures of the census of 1891 :—

Class.	Census of 5th April, 1891.			Estimate on 31st December, 1898.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Europeans ...	1,273	763	2,036	2,444	1,483	3,927
Half-castes ...	529	547	1,076	615	623	1,238
Indians	4,998	2,470	7,468	8,293	4,027	12,320
Polynesians ...	1,923	344	2,267	1,772	302	2,074
Rotumans ...	1,056	1,163	2,219	1,034	1,131	2,165
Fijians	56,445	49,355	105,800	52,656	46,298	98,954
Others	143	171	314	431	629	1,060
Totals ...	66,367	54,813	121,180	67,245	54,493	121,738

There has been a large decrease in the Fijian population. For 1898 the births amongst this class were estimated at 3,481 and the deaths at 4,300, thus showing a decrease of 819 for the year.

FIJI. 1898.

It is hoped that the steps now being taken to improve the condition of the natives will check the heavy mortality.

Public Health.

The general state of health in the Colony during the year was good. In August a case of measles was detected in Suva, the first which has occurred beyond the limits of the quarantine station since 1884. The epidemic proved to be of an exceedingly mild type and no death resulted, although nearly 200 cases were notified in the ensuing three months. Quarantine for measles has now been discontinued.

The Colony possesses probably the most healthy tropical climate in the world. Malarial fever is practically unknown. The death-rate among Europeans is exceptionally low, as will be seen from the following table :—

Year.	European Population.	Deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000.
1878	2,000	43	21·5
1881	2,671	45	16·84
1884	3,567	59	16·54
1887	2,105	31	14·72
1890	2,059	35	16·99
1893	2,474	25	10·1
1894	2,666	31	11·63
1895	2,872	31	10·79
1896	3,292	31	9·41
1897	3,401	30	8·82
1898	3,927	30	7·64

Sanitation.

There are only two European towns in the Colony, neither of which have any system of drainage beyond that naturally provided by their being situated on hills near the sea.

The heavy tropical rains, by washing the surface and carrying off impurities, do much to preserve the health of the Colony. Scavenging is done on the dry earth system.

Climate.

The total rainfall for the year was 109·62 inches, the greatest daily rainfall being 3·97 inches. The highest temperature in the shade was 93·2° on the 14th May (phenomenal for the cool season), and the lowest 61·5° on the 27th October. The prevailing winds are south-easterly and easterly.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

The particulars as to the postal service of the Colony are contained in the following statement :—

—	Internal.	External.				Total.
		United Kingdom.		Other Places.		
		From.	To.	From.	To.	
*Letters and post cards.	267,755	9,048	10,546	72,280	56,312	415,941
Newspapers ...	160,665	35,681	3,205	109,009	9,813	318,453
Book packets, samples and circulars.	30,586	3,852	1,111	13,455	4,092	53,096
Parcels	—	364	104	711	91	1,270
Telegrams ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

	Despatched.	Received.
*Including Registered	6,162	6,447

Money orders were issued and paid in the Colony as follows during the year :—

—	Issued in the Colony.	Paid in the Colony.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom	411 7 7	274 4 9
Other Colonies and Foreign Countries	1,164 7 5	254 7 7
Total ... ... £	1,575 15 0	528 12 4

FIJI. 1898.

On the 25th December the penny postage system with the United Kingdom and various Colonies came into force.

A telephone line is in course of construction between Suva and Ba, a distance of some 120 miles. The work has been undertaken by the Government in conjunction with the Colonial Sugar Refining Co. and the Union Steamship Co.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

Volunteers.

A volunteer force was established during the year, numbering 205 officers and men. A grant of 300 rifles and 150,000 rounds of ammunition was received from the Imperial Government.

Constabulary.

In addition to the above mentioned force there is a body of armed native constabulary numbering 120 officers and men.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Means of Communication.

Beyond the municipal boundaries of Suva and Levuka there are few roads fit for wheeled traffic, though bridle paths exist everywhere. The construction of a properly formed and metalled road from Suva to Rewa, a distance of some 14 miles, has been commenced. Owing to the insular nature of the Colony, the principal means of communication is by water. Much improvement has been effected of late in this direction, by small steam launches running up the rivers and inside the barrier reefs. There is now daily communication between Suva and the sugar-growing districts of Rewa and Navua, and a bi-weekly service from Suva to Levuka and weekly to Ba, another sugar district. Communication between the various islands is also maintained by a steamer and a fleet of 285 small sailing vessels.

Immigration.

Indian immigration was commenced in 1879 for the purpose of supplying labour for the planters. During 1898 573 immigrants arrived in the Colony and 393 returns left for Calcutta. There are at present some 12,320 Indians in the Colony of whom 4,810 are serving their first indenture.

Public Works.

The total expenditure on public works for 1898 (exclusive of establishments) was £4,888 0*s.* 10*d.* Of this amount some £2,600 was expended in maintaining and constructing various Government buildings; £100 was expended on a sea wall, Levuka; and £100 on removing obstructions at the mouth of the Sigatoka river. Amongst other measures adopted for the improvement of the condition of the native race, steps have been taken for the improvement of water supplies. Water was laid on to the town of Tupou, Lakeba, at a total cost of £297, mainly contributed by the natives. In the province of Kadavu three towns have been supplied with water brought some two miles in a 3-inch pipe. The estimated population of the villages supplied is 370. The total cost was £570, of which £230 was paid by the Government.

Future Prospects of Trade.

At present the four products sugar, green fruit, copra, and distilled spirit make up 96 per cent. of the total exports. The following table shows the value of the principal minor exports of the Colony :—

Export.	Quantity.	Value.
		£
Cocoa-nuts ...	7,834 sacks	1,749
Peanuts	163 tons	2,615
Tobacco	2 tons 5 cwt	258
Vanilla	—	600

It will be seen from the foregoing figures that there is room for considerable extension in the cultivation of such products as coffee, cocoa, vanilla, limes, ginger, maize, &c. A report by the Kew authorities spoke in very high terms of samples of Fiji grown ginger submitted to them. There is a market obtainable for all the above mentioned products in the neighbouring Australian Colonies. For persons possessing the necessary experience in tropical agriculture, and a certain amount of capital, there is undoubtedly an opening in the cultivation of the above named and like products.

FIJI. 1898.

The climate, though warm and moist, is not unsuited for Europeans. Manual work is for the most part performed by coloured labour, Europeans being employed for skilled labour and as overseers. The following are the average rates of wages :— Carpenters, painters, coopers, blacksmiths, 14*s.* per day ; Overseers, £80 to £200, with quarters.

W. E. ALLARDYCE,

Assistant Colonial Secretary.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 264.

GAMBIA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1898.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 229.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

August, 1899.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.; and
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1899.

[C.—9046-32] *Price* 1*d*.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony &c.	Year.
238	Bahamas...	1897
239	St. Lucia...	,,
240	St. Helena	,,
241	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
242	British Honduras	,,
243	Malta	,,
244	Fiji	,,
245	Hong Kong	,,
246	Leeward Islands	,,
247	Grenada	,,
248	Gibraltar...	,,
249	Gold Coast	,,
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues	,,
251	British Solomon Islands	1897–98
252	Seychelles	1897
253	Labuan	,,
254	Ceylon	,,
255	Basutoland	1897–98
256	Newfoundland	1896–97
257	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1898
258	British New Guinea	1897–98
259	Bermuda	1898
260	West African Frontier Force...	1897–98
261	Jamaica	,,
262	Barbados...	1898
263	Falkland Islands	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics.

No. 264.

GAMBIA.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 229.)

ADMINISTRATOR SIR R. B. LLEWELYN to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Bathurst, Gambia,
26th April 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward a copy of the Blue Book and my Report thereon for the year 1898.

I have, &c.,

R. B. LLEWELYN,
Administrator.

3311*—75—7/99 Wt 21935 D & S—5 (B)

GAMBIA, 1898.

REPORT ON THE GAMBIA BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1898.

FINANCIAL.

The revenue of the Colony amounted to £43,717, an increase of £4,300 above the revenue for 1897, and the largest sum ever collected.

During the year some premises in Bathurst that the Government had purchased a few years ago, when a site for a public wharf was required, were sold for £3,000, which raised the total receipts to £46,717, and as the total expenditure only amounted to £29,035, the Colony was able to increase its surplus by over £17,000, and there was thus, on the 31st December. 1898, an available surplus of £29,000. I therefore can briefly state that the financial position of this small Colony, without any debt, was most satisfactory.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

2. The comparative table of revenue shews the steady increase year by year since 1896 of the receipts from the Protectorate, and from the passenger and freight traffic on the Government steamer "Mansah Kilah" on her weekly journeys up and down the river to M'Carthy Island.

The revenue from the Protectorate has risen as follows :—

	£
In 1896	1,666
„ 1897	2,540
„ 1898	3,165

and from the "Mansah Kilah"—

	£
1896	329
1897	612
1898	971

from the export duties on ground nuts—

	£
1896	18,625
1897	29,736
1898	33,761

3. The expenditure amounted to £29,000 and calls for no special comment as only the ordinary services were provided for.

4. During the year the old pilot service at the entrance of the river was abolished, and an improved plan of "buoyage" has been adopted.

The entrance to the River Gambia is not near any high land, and is often out of sight of the low-lying coast. The Fairway bell-buoy is 21 miles from Bathurst, and without all the appliances for lifting buoys it is difficult to maintain them in perfect order; but it is hoped that the buoys will be managed easier than a pilot cutter and be quite as effective. Being less costly to maintain the dues on shipping were reduced at the end of the year, and are now only five shillings per foot (draught measurement).

5. The comparative table of imports gives the value of the cotton goods imported during the year as £60,787, an increase of £3,800 on the previous year, and £25,000 more than in 1889. This is a large increase, and practically all came from Manchester.

The patterns of the native cloths or pagns are now closely imitated by the manufacturers in England. Personally I should be sorry to see the native clothmaker, with his primitive loom, entirely disappear from the villages, but probably, though not in my time, the day will come when native bandy cloth will be a curiosity and the art of making it a forgotten one.

The "home-made" cloth will die hard, for it is far more lasting than the shoddy material made in Europe.

The old natives often tell me that the white man does not send them such good cotton as formerly. It is cheaper, but some would prefer to pay more and get better articles. The merchant buys only the cheapest and commonest, and keeps up the highest price he can as long as he can, and only gradually reduces it when forced by competition.

The imports of tobacco in 1898 were a little larger than in 1897, but the quantity of spirits doubled.

The quantity of kola nuts imported was 33 per cent. less, but owing to the rise in the price caused by the disturbances in Sierra Leone, where all the nuts came from, the value was the same—nearly £22,000.

These kola nuts are consumed entirely by the natives, especially the Mahomedans, and they are offered to a friend when visiting in the same way that a European tenders a cigar or refreshment.

The most remarkable feature in the imports was the very large increases in rice and sugar. Rice rose from 1,432 tons in 1897 to 3,960 tons in 1898. This is abnormal and partly to be accounted for by the plague of locusts which destroyed the corn and home-grown rice. Also the farmers found it paid better to plant ground nuts, which fortunately the locusts do not seem to care for, and purchase rice with the cash they obtained for their nuts.

The importations of sugar were more remarkable. In 1889 the total imports of this article were 1,083 cwt., of which 486 cwt. came from France; in 1897, 1,607 cwt.; and in 1898, 2,911 cwt., of which 2,393 cwt. came from France and which cost there 2*d.* per

GAMBIA, 1898.

pound in small loaves. The import duty on sugar is 1*d.* a pound, and it is retailed in Bathurst at 6*d.* a pound.

There must be an increasing demand for sugar in Africa as the country gets opened up, for the native African has certainly a sweet tooth, and it seems to me that there is an opening here for West Indian sugar.

As the crop of ground nuts in 1889 was about the same as in 1897, I give below for comparison the quantities of ground nuts exported in the three years 1889, 1897, and 1898, and the value or quantities of the principal imports in those years :—

——	1889.	1897.	1898.
Exports :—			
Ground nuts ... *Tons*	19,636	20,279	33,078
Imports :—			
Cotton goods ... £	35,857	56,983	60,787
Rice ... ... *Tons*	906	1,432	3,960
Sugar ... ... *Cwts.*	1,082	1,619	2,921
Salt ... ... *Tons*	691	1,605	1,192
Spirits ... *Gallons*	40,108	20,576	40,319
Kola nuts ... £	21,211	21,885	21,639
Tobacco ... ... *lbs.*	296,978	272,580	292,472

It will be seen from the above, comparing the crops of ground nuts which are entirely grown by natives with the imported articles which they specially consume, that the taste for spirits and tobacco is proportionately decreasing, and for kolas increasing, for the value of the latter would have been far more in 1898 if the kolas had been procurable, whilst the consumption of sugar has increased in a marvellous manner as referred to above, and rice owing to special causes.

No Muscovado sugar is imported, but I am sure it would be appreciated by the natives to mix with their "pap"—a preparation of pounded corn—if it could be obtained in handy packages. Sugar packed in bagging gets moist in this damp climate in lightly constructed native huts ; but I think if it could be put up in tins or kegs, which could be retailed here at a dollar or two dollars a package, it would take.

The merchants here would expect to get double their invoice price---Could ten pounds of good clean Muscovado sugar be packed in tins or small kegs and delivered here for one shilling and eightpence ?

I may, perhaps, also mention, as a requirement in Africa, salt—which one small English colony in the West Indies produces of an excellent quality. The salt at present imported here is made by solar evaporation in the Cape Verde Islands. It is not to be compared with Turks Islands salt for purity, and I believe the latter could be sold as cheap or cheaper.

What is wanted, is to connect the West Indies and the West Coast of Africa by direct steam communication.

Many common articles of food in the West Indies, such as salt, fish, and cornmeal, would, if they were introduced on the West Coast of Africa, be as popular there as they are with their kinsfolk in the West Indies.

I believe, too, in the course of time the inhabitants would pass to and fro, as they would not on the voyage have to leave a tropical climate, which many now dread. Such a steam service would not pay at first, but it should in a reasonable time, if carefully managed.

Great advantage, too, would accrue if some of the better mechanics, such as engine drivers for steam launches, men who have been trained in the working of machinery on sugar estates, carpenters, masons, painters, blacksmiths, and even schoolmasters and native clerks could be induced to come to the West Coast of Africa ; and I think they would if transport was easy and cheap, for they could cross as deck passengers in a voyage that would be entirely performed within the tropics. Perhaps all the colonies in the West Indies as well as those on the West Coast of Africa might for a few years contribute a small subsidy to a steamship company.

Exports.

The staple export, ground nuts, are almost exclusively shipped to France, although a few cargoes now go to Holland ; and I cannot understand why there is no manufactory of oil from these nuts in England, for the business must be profitable.

The following figures are, I believe, fairly reliable :—

30,000 tons of nuts could be delivered annually from this Colony in England at a cost of £6 per ton. A ton of nuts gives 80 gallons of oil, which is worth from 2*s*. to 3*s*. per gallon.

In addition there is a large percentage of oil-cake for cattle fodder—briefly, nuts worth £180,000 give oil worth £300,000, and give cake worth value not known. I am unable to give the cost of the necessary machinery and factory required, but it looks like, and I understand it is, a profitable business to manufacture ground-nut oil, which resembles olive oil, and is I am informed used in the manufacture of butter and cheese.

I close these remarks on trade with comparative tables of the principal Exports and Imports for the years 1897 and 1898, and total Imports and Exports for the last five years.

COLONY OF THE GAMBIA.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, 1897 AND 1898.

Imports.

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.		Value.	
	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.	Increase.	Decrease.
			£	£	£	£
Cotton Goods	3,352 pkgs.	3,336 pkgs.	56,983	60,787	3,804	—
Tobacco	272,580 lbs.	292,472 lbs.	6,110	7,190	1,080	—
Kola Nuts	834,441 lbs.	520,366 lbs.	21,885	21,639	—	246
Spirits	20,576 galls.	40,319 galls.	2,344	4,373	2,029	—
Wine	14,488 galls.	14,310 galls.	1,728	1,911	183	—
Sugar	1,619 cwts.	2,921 cwts.	1,409	2,583	1,174	—
Salt	1,605 tons	1,192 tons	1,526	997	—	529
Gunpowder	411 brls.	610 brls.	746	970	224	—
Rice	28,642 cwts.	79,208 cwts.	13,529	38,223	24,694	—
		Exports.				
Ground Nuts	20,279 tons	33,078 tons	126,605	200,309	93,704	—
Rubber	423,103 lbs.	481,020 lbs.	23,457	30,468	7,011	—
Palm Kernels	145 tons	145 tons	1,145	919	—	226
Wax	53,375 lbs.	42,859 lbs.	1,914	1,833	—	81
Hides	1,651	1,528	180	311	131	—

Return Shewing Total Imports and Exports for the Last Five Years, 1894 to 1898.

Imports.

Articles.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
	£	£	£	£	£
Specie	11,177	13,432	19,262	36,515	59,030
Other Articles ...	119,172	83,967	91,062	139,812	187,062
Total ...	130,349	97,399	110,324	176,327	246,092

Exports.

Articles.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
	£	£	£	£	£
Specie	7,226	4,490	543	2,272	2,722
Other Articles ...	141,917	89,047	116,438	163,622	245,110
Total ...	149,143	93,537	116,981	165,894	247,832

Municipality.

The only Public or Municipal Board in the Colony is that known as the Board of Health of Bathurst, constituted under the provisions of Ordinance 4 of 1887. It derives its revenue from the rates (fixed annually) on houses and land within the

GAMBIA, 1898.

town, and fees collected at the Slaughter House; and the Government gives an annual grant of £200 in lieu of all rates on Government buildings.

The total revenue collected is between £700 and £800 per annum, which is expended in cleaning the streets, attending to the drains, lighting the streets, and generally looking after the sanitation of the town.

The Board had £248 to its credit at the end of the year, which is now being spent in providing additional and better lamps in the town. I believe the town of Bathurst is kept as neat and clean as any West African town can be.

AGRICULTURE.

Nothing has yet been done to develop or improve the agricultural resources of the Colony.

A botanical station was started four years ago, and a number of orange and other fruit trees planted and distributed throughout the Protectorate. Orange trees bear remarkably well in Kommbo, but are slow of growth at first. I hope, however, that in a few years time the supply of this fruit will largely increase, and some may then be shipped to the drier regions in the neighbourhood, such as Senegal, or up the river to the interior where fruit is scarce but always very acceptable to the natives residing there.

Attempts are being made to introduce ploughing with oxen, and the Government has two pairs of oxen broken in at the botanical station which are used for ploughing and drawing a cart, and as the cattle are now, after the disease of 1892, beginning to increase again, it is hoped the natives, seeing what can be done by the Government plough and cart, will soon adopt the same course.

Coconuts, which grow well on the sandy shore near Bathurst, have been planted and should give some good returns in a few years; but it is most difficult to get anyone here with capital to think of anything but trading.

One firm has just imported machinery for the purpose of extracting piassava from a plant which grows in profusion up the river, and if the enterprise succeeds it will add an export to the Colony.

I believe that pita, sisal hemp, could be cultivated here in the dry tracts of now useless land; but this requires capital.

Land can be obtained from the Government for agricultural purposes on easy conditions on payment of 2*d.* per acre per annum for 21 years, and capitalists would do well here if men with practical knowledge were employed to work the land by planting what is suited to the soil and climate. At present none have attempted it.

SHIPPING, FREIGHTS, &c.

English vessels are still doing the greater part of the carrying trade of the Colony. The river is open to the navigation of vessels of all nationalities and nearly every nation has had some steamer here to take away produce.

The rates of freight for cargo from England by the mail steamers are very high (42*s.* 6*d.* a ton plus 10 per cent.).

I cannot obtain from the agents here any printed tariff of charges, but I believe, generally speaking, the rates are considered unnecessarily high for this port. Unfortunately, the Company has a monopoly, and so can fix its own terms, which must check commerce. Outward freights from Marseilles or Bordeaux in French steamers are less than half what are charged by the English mail boats from Liverpool, which are continually raising their rates.

The mail steamers get privileges and facilities everywhere, and although not subsidized an improvement in speed, comfort, and punctuality are much wanted. Remonstrance is useless against a powerful monopoly, but there is no doubt this Colony is very badly served by the mail steamers running here.

Ground nuts are carried in bulk in steamers to Marseilles for about 20*s.* a ton. Some of these tramp steamers have good passenger accommodation, and travel quite as fast and even faster than the English mail steamers.

SAVINGS BANK, FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

There has been an increase in the number of depositors and amount of deposits during the last five years. The balance left on the 31st December last was £2,562.

The natives in the Protectorate are being told of its existence, but at present all their savings are being spent on cattle to replace those they lost seven years ago by disease.

There are 27 Friendly Societies or Burial Clubs in Bathurst, which had £727 (the greater part in the Savings Bank) to their

credit at the end of the year. The rules for the management of these Friendly Societies have to be first approved of by the Legislative Council, and, generally speaking, they are practical; but I have been amused sometimes at the grandiose titles of the office bearers, which include a "mistress of the robes," who is to see that persons attending funerals are properly attired according to minute regulations. Yet, for all this, the main idea is charity! and I believe these clubs do good in their way.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS, PRISONS, &C.

The Criminal Statistics of the Colony shew that there is very little crime.

The Native Courts in the Protectorate are steadily improving, and are doing useful work in maintaining order. Crimes of a serious nature are dealt with by the travelling Commissioners in the Protectorate or by the Supreme Court in Bathurst. There are now about six prisoners from the Protectorate in the gaol in Bathurst.

VITAL STATISTICS, CLIMATE, &C.

I regret to say that the death-rate in Bathurst last year rose from 365 in 1897, to 439 in 1898, being an average of 29·26 per thousand. One-sixth of the total number of deaths occurred amongst young children, who here, as elsewhere in tropical countries, seem to die in large numbers, probably from ignorance and neglect on the part of their parents. It does not appear that there were any special causes for the larger mortality amongst the adults.

The deaths amongst the Europeans numbered four, including two cases of Blackwater fever. The rainy and unhealthy season for Europeans lasts for four months, July to October, but as business is then at a standstill, nearly all the Europeans leave the Colony for Europe, and this sensible arrangement reduces the mortality rate considerably. The natives suffer also from fever in the rainy season, and in addition, contract consumption and chest affections during the months of December and January when the winds are sometimes very cold.

There are great variations in the climate here. The thermometer in Bathurst sometimes varies 30 degrees in a day—68° to 98°—and it is always 20 degrees, or more, warmer up the river than near the sea coast. I believe the climate in Bathurst between July and October is as bad as the worst season on any part of the West Coast, but, fortunately, few Europeans are then

here. During the remainder of the year it is fairly healthy, but it is necessary always to be careful and remember you are on the West Coast of Africa.

The average rainfall is about 50 inches, which falls entirely between July and October, and for the rest of the year, except a few showers in May and June, there is a perfect drought. In December and the following months up to March the hot Harmattan wind blows from the East. In the interior this is very trying, coming as it does in hot blasts over miles of dry land or sand. In Bathurst it is fresher, as it blows across the water at the entrance of the river.

In April, the pleasantest month of the year in Bathurst, the sea breeze blows. In May the calm weather commences, being the precursor of the rainy season, when the days and nights, except during tornadoes, are perfectly airless.

Bathurst is a clean town, barely above high-water mark, but with wide streets and careful sanitary supervision, I believe it is as healthy as the natural surroundings will allow.

POLICE.

(*Armed Force.*)

There are no troops now stationed in Bathurst, but the police force consists of two European Officers and 100 men who are armed and drilled.

The force has also three seven-pound field-pieces, and is considered to be sufficiently trained and equipped to suppress any small disturbance that might occur.

The police force is kept entirely in Bathurst, with the exception of a few men at M'Carthy Island and other places in the Colony. The Protectorate is policed by the natives, and the men are designated "messengers."

They are vested with the authority and protection of a police-constable when wearing their badges, and are employed for summoning or arresting persons who may be wanted. The headmen and headchiefs give them their orders and badges, and the system is working satisfactorily.

A case occurred when one of these native messengers was assaulted in the execution of his duty, and the trial and imprisonment of the offender has had a salutary effect. An occasion presented itself for showing a little force in the Jolah country, and

GAMBIA, 1898.

fifty of the police who were sent on this mission acquitted themselves creditably. Otherwise peace and order prevailed everywhere, and the police force was only wanted for ordinary civil duties in the town of Bathurst.

GENERAL.

The trade of the Colony was unprecedented, and although with a single staple trade is naturally liable to great fluctuations, yet I consider that the improvement that has been effected in the administration of the Protectorate during the past few years diminishes the chances of any serious sudden decrease in the trade such as formerly often occurred owing to the little native wars that constantly, almost permanently, were going on.

The river Gambia, the best waterway in this part of Africa, must always attract trade to its banks; and the encouragement of traffic on the river is the object to be aimed at.

The little steamer, "Mansah Kilah," started four years ago to run up and down to M'Carthy Island every week, has fully justified this scheme. It is hoped that by next year a steamer will be running in connection with it right up to Yarbutenda; and this should lead to further traffic from the interior.

A depot and lodging house at Yarbutenda will be established, and I think will draw traders.

Factories or "depots" with wharves are increasing up the river. At Ballangar, 100 miles up, there are now three short wharves, at each of which quite recently three large steamers, over a thousand tons each, were lying at the same time taking in ground nuts. This cheapens freight. Steamers go up the river to load for an additional 2*s*. 6*d*. per ton, whereas it used to cost 20*s*. a ton to bring nuts to Bathurst in cutters. I think at last this magnificent waterway is being put to some use.

The social condition of the natives is, I hope, advancing.

Mahomedanism is increasing, and with it temperance and decency. It is pleasing to note that the women are sometimes averse to marrying drinking men, and more than one case has come to my knowledge where would-be suitors have become Mahomedans so as to gain a wife.

There have also been two or three cases where a woman has applied for a separation from a drunken husband and succeeded in her case. Judicial separations and divorces are more easily and cheaply managed amongst the natives in the Protectorate—but they are quite as effective—than they can be in civilized countries.

Christianity is not making any advance in the interior, and I fancy is remaining stationary in Bathurst, where fully half of the population are Mahomedans.

Several English men-of-war have lately visited and remained at Bathurst for some time. The facilities for landing and drilling, and the drier climate during the winter months are, I believe, considered to be beneficial to the crews.

The year 1898 was a record one for trade, and I am sure all the old-established merchants had prosperous seasons, which prosperity filtered through to all classes and gave general contentment.

I can close this report by happily being able to state that this year so far promises even to be better than the two last years which have been record ones.

I have, &c.,

R. B. LLEWELYN,

Administrator.

26th April 1899.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE E.C.

1898.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 248.

GIBRALTAR.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 202.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

November 1898.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C., and
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN

1898.

[C.—9046–16.] *Price* 1*d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
221	Labuan	1896
222	British Guiana	1896–97
223	Rodrigues	1896
224	Basutoland	1896–97
225	Jamaica	,,
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
227	Leeward Islands	1896
228	Bermuda	1897
229	Gambia	,,
230	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
231	Barbados	,,
232	Lagos	,,
233	St. Vincent	,,
234	Sierra Leone	,,
235	Falkland Islands	,,
236	Straits Settlements	,,
237	British New Guinea	1896–97
238	Bahamas...	1897
239	St. Lucia...	,,
240	St. Helena	,,
241	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
242	British Honduras	,,
243	Malta	,,
244	Fiji	,,
245	Hong Kong	,,
246	Leeward Islands	,,
247	Grenada	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 248.

GIBRALTAR.

GIBRALTAR, 1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 202.)

GOVERNOR SIR R. BIDDULPH to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Gibraltar,

12th October 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Annual Blue Book for 1897, together with a report on the same by the Colonial Secretary.

2. The Revenue and Expenditure returns are, on the whole, satisfactory. The former exceeded the latter by 121,000 pesetas, and the actual expenditure was 38,855 pesetas less than had been estimated.

3. The shipping returns show a slight increase, being nearly 60,000 tons better than in 1896. The increase has, however, been wholly in foreign ships, British shipping continuing to show the decline which I noticed in my last Annual Report.

4. The progressive fall in the value of the currency, which has been brought to notice during the last six years, continued during 1897, but any comment upon it is superfluous in view of the currency crisis which has taken place during 1898, and which will probably occupy a prominent place in the next Annual Report on Gibraltar.

5. It is with real satisfaction that I invite your attention to the small amount of crime in Gibraltar, an amount which shows an annual decrease, as appears from the number of offences reported to the police during the last four years, viz :—

1894	1,709
1895	1,450
1896	1,336
1897	1,104

848*—75—10/98 Wt 21620 D & S—5 (B)

GIBRALTAR, 1897.

There were but twelve persons tried in the Supreme Court, of whom two were acquitted. The daily average number in prison is less than 19, and not more than one-third of the prison population are natives of Gibraltar.

6. The general cleanliness and good order of the town and its inhabitants is a matter of common notoriety. It is no more than ought to be the case in a fortress, but it is not the less creditable to all classes, and to the officials who supervise them, in a place where many of the conditions are very adverse to such a result.

I have &c.,

ROBERT BIDDULPH,

General and Governor.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1897.

REVENUE.

The following comparative statement shows the Revenue collected in 1896 and 1897:—

——	1896.	1897.
	Pts.	Pts.
Customs	295,773	316,656
Port Dues	338,046	338,098
Licenses, &c.	140,534	136,403
Fees of Office, &c.	255,634	271,429
Post and Telegraph Office ...	343,515	259,320
House and Ground Rents ...	193,961	190,461
Interest on Investments ...	10,591	11,252
Miscellaneous	3,731	129,162
Total Pts. ...	1,581,785	1,652,781

The net increase was therefore 70,996 ptas. over the revenue for the previous year.

Customs show a small increase, as the consumption of wines, spirits, and malt liquors, which were the only dutiable articles in 1897, depends in some measure on the labour market, and during the past year there was ample employment for labour of all kinds.

Licenses show a small falling off, the number of tavern licenses being slightly reduced.

Fees of office show a slight increase. Under this head are included Savings Bank profits and Hospital fees, both of which exceeded the amounts collected on those sub-heads in 1896.

Post Office receipts show a rather marked decrease, due wholly to large sales in 1896 of stamps of denominations about to be withdrawn from circulation. The general Post Office business has increased.

"Miscellaneous" includes the sale of "The Grange" property to the War Department, and other special receipts which make up the excess over the receipts under the same head in 1896.

EXPENDITURE.

The Expenditure from General Revenue in 1897 varied very little from that of the previous year, as will be seen from the following table which distinguishes between the ordinary expenditure and the special expenditure, which is only incurred when means allow.

——	1896.	1897.
	Pts.	Pts.
Ordinary Expenditure :—		
1. Establishments	1,143,566	1,175,178
2. Pensions	66,571	57,770
3. Ecclesiastical	25,220	25,220
4. Public Works, annual ...	47,015	49,275
5. Miscellaneous	59,815	61,140
Total Pts. ...	1,342,187	1,368,583
Special Expenditure :—		
1. Public Works, special ...	114,131	163,201
2. Miscellaneous	52,387	—
Total Pts. ...	166,518	163,201
Total Expenditure Pts. ...	1,508,705	1,531,784

GIBRALTAR, 1897.

The small apparent increase under head of Establishments is not due to creation of fresh offices, but to the slight increase inevitable where so many salaries rise by annual increments, and also partly to balances of salaries undrawn in 1896 having been paid up in 1897.

In special expenditure the increase in special public works is caused by a larger amount having been contributed to the new drainage works. There was no other special expenditure chargeable to ordinary Revenue, but a considerable sum, amounting to 514,077 ptas., was advanced from Revenue funds towards the cost of installation of the electric lighting. This, however, is capital expenditure, and has since been repaid from a loan raised for the purpose, and is therefore shown in the Blue Book under the head of Advances.

SHIPPING.

Vessels Entered and Cleared.

Vessels.	Number.		Tonnage.		Crews.	
	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.
British Steam Ships	5,442	5,291	6,688,261	6,630,465	188,423	184,452
Do. Sailing Do.	330	265	30,560	24,528	1,821	1,143
Total British Ships ...	5,772	5,556	6,718,821	6,654,993	190,244	185,895
Foreign Steam Ships...	2,007	2,177	1,866,428	1,991,603	74,112	79,058
Do. Sailing Do.	747	745	75,682	73,573	4,993	4,773
Total Foreign Ships ...	2,754	2,992	1,942,110	2,065,176	79,105	83,831
Grand Total	8,562	8,478	8,660,931	8,720,169	269,349	269,726
	48 Decrease.		59,238 Increase.		377 Increase.	

GIBRALTAR, 1897.

The above return may be regarded as satisfactory inasmuch as, though there is a small decrease in the number of vessels, there is an increase of tonnage, so that there is no real falling off in the shipping trade. The Blue Book for 1896 showed a decrease of 628 in the number of vessels, with a decrease in tonnage of 417,325 tons as compared with 1895, in which year the number of vessels was 1,087 less than in 1894 and the tonnage 762,751 tons less. Last year's returns not only show that this falling off has been arrested, but are also more satisfactory since the arrest may fairly be attributed to the increased facilities given to vessels calling either for coal or for orders. It may be reasonably hoped that the year marks a fresh start, as, since the close of 1897, port dues have been materially reduced, and the works on the Commercial and Coaling Mole, which were begun in the latter part of 1897, have been pushed forward so rapidly that a portion of the new wharves will shortly be opened to traffic. The facilities afforded by the new works for coaling alongside a wharf in sheltered waters, at any hour by day or by night, will be unsurpassed anywhere, while the reduction in the port dues already effected, which makes Gibraltar as cheap a port as any in the Mediterranean, adds to its advantages as a port of call for orders or for coal. Besides the works directly intended for the improvement of the shipping facilities, others to increase the supply of drinking water are making good progress, and, before long, the plentiful supply of fresh water for the shipping will greatly add to the advantages of the port. It is encouraging to note that during 1897 the number of steamers calling for bunker coal was 49 more than in 1896, the number of tons supplied being 280,586, or 20,591 tons more than in 1896.

EXCHANGE AND CURRENCY.

The financial condition of Spain led to a still further depreciation of the currency of that country, which was also throughout 1897 the sole legal tender currency of Gibraltar. The value of the sovereign, which had averaged 29.80 pesetas in 1896, had reached 33.25 pesetas by the end of 1897. The rise in the value of gold led to a corresponding rise in the prices of all imported goods, since the importer who had to pay in gold and to sell for silver, was forced to fix his silver prices at a figure which seemed likely to cover all possible fluctuations. Owners of house property began to fix their rents in sterling, and the cost of living generally increased with startling rapidity. All business was unsettled, and the way was prepared for the crisis which followed upon the opening of hostilities between Spain and the United States of America in April of the present year. The complete disorganisation which then ensued still further raised prices, and forced on the change in the currency which has since been

introduced, but which is outside the scope of this report, since it was effected after the period covered by the Blue Book.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The installation of electric lighting continued to make good progress, though the supply of the machinery was unfortunately delayed through the engineers strike. The works will be running before the close of the current year. The new main sewer has been finished, and is being taken over by the Sanitary Commissioners. The only other works, beyond the ordinary maintenance of public buildings, were the alterations to the additional premises taken over for the Colonial Secretary's Office, and the remodelling of the Treasury and Port Department Offices, so as to provide separate accommodation for the two Departments, which were reorganized at the close of the year.

LEGISLATION.

One Order in Council and six Ordinances were added to the Laws in 1897. The Order in Council amended former Orders so as to allow of all fees, duties, and charges payable to Her Majesty being collected in British sterling money, instead of in Spanish currency, which had been sole legal tender since the Order in Council of 1881.

Of the Ordinances passed, those of chief public interest were the following :—

No. 3. "The Merchant Shipping Amendment Ordinance," which provides for the examination of, and issue of certificates of competency to, masters, mates, engineers, and pilots.

No. 4. "The Shipping Master's Fees Ordinance" to provide for the payment of fees similar to those charged under "The Merchant Shipping Act, 1894," for the engagement and discharge of seamen.

No. 6. "The Larceny Ordinance" which is a transcript of the "Larceny Act, 1896," and provides for persons in Gibraltar in possession of property stolen outside the Colony being dealt with by the local courts in the same manner as if the property had been stolen in Gibraltar.

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

In August 1897, Mr. Ralph Williams, Colonial Treasurer and Collector of Revenues, and Captain of the Port, was appointed

GIBRALTAR, 1897.

Colonial Secretary of Barbados, and the departments were separated, Mr. Alfred Craven Greenwood being appointed Treasurer and Collector, and Commander Lionel Barnes-Lawrence, R.N., Acting Captain of the Port, an appointment which has since been confirmed. Colonel M. H. Purcell, R.E., who had been Acting Colonial Engineer since February 1896, left the station in December 1897, and Colonel W. H. Rathborne, Commanding Royal Engineer, took over the duties of the acting appointment.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The Colony maintained its reputation for good health in spite of a slight prevalence of measles and of a good many cases of diphtheria. The death-rate per 1,000 was only 20·64, while there was a birth-rate of 24·42.

EDUCATION.

The reports received for 1897 are not wholly satisfactory. The number of children on the books was 1,622, with an average attendance of 1,213, the number in 1896 being 1,656, with an average of 1,267. The unaided private schools have sent in very incomplete returns, which show 565 children on the books, the whole number under tuition in aided and unaided schools in 1897 being thus 2,187, as against 2,291 in 1896. The Hebrew schools, which were completed as far as the edifice was concerned, at the time of my last report, remained closed throughout 1897, but they have since been opened.

Although there is some falling off in the number of scholars, it is satisfactory to note that the Inspector reports most favourably on the manner in which the schools are conducted, and that the standard of efficiency is steadily rising.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The total number of offences reported to the police in 1897 was 1,104, of which 1,085 were brought to trial. This compares very favourably with the previous year, when 1,336 cases were reported and 1,321 brought to trial. Of the cases brought to trial 687 were summarily convicted as against 897 in 1896, and 15 were committed for trial before the Supreme Court, 19 cases having been committed in 1896. Of the summary convictions only 133 were punished by imprisonment, and of these only 3 sentences were for over 3 months.

The absence of serious crime and the general good behaviour of the people is very noticeable, and it must be borne in mind that a considerable proportion of the persons brought to trial do not belong to Gibraltar, but are among the large crowds of aliens entering the gates daily.

The average number of prisoners in the gaol daily was between 18 and 19. The prison was maintained in a high state of efficiency, and the health of the prisoners was excellent.

H. M. JACKSON,

Colonial Secretary.

Gibraltar, 7th October, 1898.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE E.C.

1899.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 276.

GIBRALTAR.

REPORT FOR 1898.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 248.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

October, 1899.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 1-3, Great St. Thomas Apostle, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C., and
32, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, Hanover Street, Edinburgh, and
90, West Nile Street, Glasgow; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., Limited, 104, Grafton Street, Dublin.

1899.

[C. 9498–10.] *Price* 2*d*.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions, have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues	1897
251	Solomon Islands	1897–98
252	Seychelles	1897
253	Labuan	,,
254	Ceylon	,,
255	Basutoland	1897–98
256	Newfoundland	1896–97
257	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1898
258	British New Guinea	1897–98
259	Bermuda	1898
260	Niger.—West African Frontier Force ...	1897–98
261	Jamaica	,,
262	Barbados	1898
263	Falkland Islands	,,
264	Gambia	,,
265	St. Helena	,,
266	Leeward Islands	,,
267	St. Lucia	,,
268	Fiji	,,
269	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
270	Malta	,,
271	Gold Coast	,,
272	Trinidad...	,,
273	Sierra Leone	,,
274	Ceylon	,,
275	British Solomon Islands	1898–99

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.

No. 276.

GIBRALTAR.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 248.)

No. 1.

GOVERNOR SIR R. BIDDULPH to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

[*Answered by No.* 2.]

Gibraltar,
16th September 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Annual Blue Book for 1898, together with a Report by the Colonial Secretary.

2. Without entering more particularly on the statistics for 1898, which have been put very clearly by Sir Henry Jackson, it may be of interest to draw attention to the general state of Gibraltar, as shown by the reports of the past five years.

3. During each of those years the revenue has exceeded the expenditure by sums varying from £2,000 to £7,000, and amounting in all to £21,210. This surplus has enabled us to defray not only the charge due by the Government on account of the new main drainage, but also a large portion of the capital sum involved in establishing electric light works, the cost of which up to the 31st December 1898 (£26,186) has been met by a loan of only £15,000, the remaining £11,186 having been provided out of current revenue. Our cash balances have increased from £2,403 to £4,608, and the balance of assets over liabilities from £8,638 to £29,795* These figures are especially satisfactory because the revenue of Gibraltar is not of a nature which is likely to show expansion, and care is consequently needed to prevent some unforeseen expenditure involving the Government in a deficit.

4. But whilst the same necessity for providing a sufficient revenue to cover the necessary local expenditure exists for Gibraltar as for the other foreign possessions of the Crown, Gibraltar differs from all the others in being unable to augment its financial resources by encouraging an increase of population and trade. The whole territory being comprised within the fortress, Gibraltar is in the position of a fortified city with a large population, but which has no adjoining territory for an outlet or for suburbs.

* The assets for 1898 would have been £21,795 but for the sale to the Admiralty of a property which had been bought in 1892.

3764*—75—9/99 Wt 21935 D & S—5 (B)

GIBRALTAR 1898.

5. In the early part of the century it was also the policy of the British Government to make use of Gibraltar as a commercial base, and consequently the population was allowed to increase by the grant of permits of residence to persons who were not British subjects, but whose descendants have acquired British nationality by birthright. Accordingly each decade during the present century has shown a progressive increase in the number of the inhabitants, notwithstanding that for many years past aliens have not been allowed to settle in the territory. To combat this increase has been the more recent policy of Her Majesty's Government, as the congested state of the town of Gibraltar creates a danger to the fortress, whether in time of peace or of war.

6. The difficulty of effecting a reduction of the population in time of peace is naturally very great. To bring it about it is necessary to act in two directions :—

1st. By causing the actual removal of a portion of the population.

2nd. By taking measures to prevent an increase in the number of persons who would acquire a right of residence by being born in Gibraltar, or whom, owing to a lifelong residence in Gibraltar in a dependent position, it might ultimately be found impossible to remove from motives of humanity.

7. For the first of these objects the following measures are taken :—

(*a*) The prevention of all building which would have the effect of increasing the accommodation available for residence.

(*b*) The enforcement of the sanitary byelaws which deal with the overcrowding of tenements.

The Governor has statutory power which enables him to carry out the former measure. The latter is one of considerable difficulty, because it cannot be carried out in its entirety without removing persons from British territory, a measure for which there is no power in the case of persons possessing British nationality. In such cases it is only by exercising patient and steady pressure that the object can be attained.

8. Lately several blocks of buildings, which contained a considerable number of persons, have been cleared away, with the object of rebuilding either official or private residences, and this has caused a reduction of the inhabitants to the extent of forty or fifty persons at a time. These opportunities are, however, of rare occurrence, and the experience of the past shows that it is by the taking of measures to prevent the introduction of persons who may acquire a right of residence that the future increase of the population may be controlled to some extent.

9. A consideration of the powers possessed by the Governor under the Aliens Order in Council will show that permission given to aliens to reside in the territory need not, under certain conditions, be prejudicial to the objects in view. Such persons can be summarily removed from British territory at any moment. Meanwhile they occupy house room which would otherwise be occupied by British subjects whom there is no power to remove.

10. The admission of such aliens has, however, to be very carefully dealt with, and the conditions of their residence closely watched. Men who are required as servants, labourers, shop assistants, &c., can with safety be allowed to reside, if their masters undertake to house them, but they cannot be permitted to have wives resident in British territory, or if that is specially allowed in the rare case of a person who is a householder, it is stipulated that his wife shall not be allowed to give birth in British territory to a child which would thus acquire British nationality. A violation of this rule is visited by fine and expulsion under the Aliens Law. For the same reason aliens living in concubinage are expelled from Gibraltar. The admission of women to act as domestic servants is allowed under certain conditions, but steps are taken to prevent, if possible, their acquiring British nationality by marriage.

11. The admission of other persons of either sex is as a rule objectionable. All sorts of pretexts are put forward with this end, and each case has to be considered on its merits with a view to the possible results hereafter. In time past this was not done, and consequently there are many families now resident here who would not have acquired British nationality if their cases had been originally dealt with from this point of view.

12. It is, therefore, with much satisfaction that I invite attention to the facts stated in the Colonial Secretary's Report, which show that there has been a marked decrease in the native population since the last census, a decrease which is the more remarkable inasmuch as there is an increase in the number of Maltese and of natives of the United Kingdom.

13. A considerable number of British subjects, unable any longer to find accommodation in Gibraltar, have established their residences at Linea, which has within the last generation become a large town depending mainly on Gibraltar, to which it acts as a suburb. Thirty years ago Linea is stated to have contained about 500 inhabitants. In January 1894 it contained about 14,000 souls. It is now said to contain over 40,000. The late rapid increase has been caused by the demand for labour in Gibraltar in connection with the military and naval works now in progress, which demand has caused a large influx of men from other parts of Spain, who have brought their families and settled in Linea. The number of persons who enter Gibraltar daily from Linea is about 10,000.

GIBRALTAR, 1898.

14. The want of space on shore, and the extremely limited amount of wharf accommodation, has led in time past to the establishment of hulks in the bay, which were used as depôts for coal and merchandise. For coal they are at present an absolute necessity, but it is evidently desirable to reduce their numbers as much as possible, as they crowd the anchorage and make it difficult for merchant vessels visiting the port. When, therefore, it was decided to lengthen the New Mole for the use of Her Majesty's ships, it was proposed that by a similar extension from the end of the Old Mole wharfage accommodation should be provided, which would give facilities for merchant ships, and would also form a closed harbour. The completion of this commercial mole will enable us to abolish the hulks. Their number has already been largely reduced by measures which have been found advisable, such as the forbidding of storage of wine and tobacco in hulks. The former gave improper facilities for the crews of ships to obtain liquor, and the latter facilitated smuggling, which it is the object of the Government to check. Accordingly the number of hulks, which was 46 on the 1st of January 1894, was only 28 on the 1st January 1899.

15. The formation of the commercial mole entails a heavy expenditure on the Local Government, which has undertaken to bear four-sevenths of the cost, estimated at £700,000. Accordingly the Local Government is liable for £400,000, equal to about eight years' revenue. This sum will be advanced as required from the Imperial treasury, repayment of capital with interest being made by an annual payment of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. until the debt is extinguished.

16. The importance of Gibraltar as a naval base makes it essential that every facility should be afforded for merchant ships as well as for ships of war to obtain supplies of coals, water, and stores. When the commercial mole is completed merchant ships will obtain these facilities to an extent not less than that offered by any port in the Mediterranean.

17. The provision of fresh water for ships has always been a matter of difficulty, as there exists no public supply in excess of that required for local needs. Indeed, after an exceptionally dry season there have been apprehensions of a water famine. With a view to maintaining a supply of water, which shall be sufficient both for local use and for shipping, four large reservoirs have been constructed in the interior of the rock, where they are perfectly secure from external injury. These reservoirs, which will contain 5,000,000 gallons, will be ready to receive water during the next rainy season, beginning about November 1899. This work has been carried out by the Sanitary Commissioners, and reflects credit upon their engineer, Mr. Copland, by whom it has been designed and executed.

18. I would here take the opportunity of alluding to the good work performed by the Sanitary Commissioners, under whose

supervision the sanitary work of Gibraltar is carried out. This work includes the charge of the roads, lighting and cleansing, together with the enforcement of proper sanitary measures in dwelling houses, and the provision of a water supply. That their work is carried out efficiently is visible in the results shown, among which may be mentioned the death-rate of Gibraltar, which for 1898 was only 17·79 per 1,000.

19. One of the most noticeable facts in connection with the health returns is the small amount of Mediterranean fever, and it is to be observed that, if taken in time, the cases that occur are quickly cured. The long, obstinate cases which are sometimes seen are nearly always traceable to neglect in the early stage, or to want of care when approaching convalescence.

20. In concluding this my sixth and last Annual Report on Gibraltar, I wish to place on record my appreciation of the services of the Government officials of all grades, whose loyalty and industry are most marked. I would also draw particular attention to the general good behaviour of the inhabitants. My former reports have shown how small is our prison population, and what a small proportion of these are natives of Gibraltar. The year 1898 was no exception, since there were only eight natives of Gibraltar in prison on the 31st December 1898. The orderly behaviour of the somewhat crowded population of the fortress is an important matter, and affords ground for great satisfaction.

I have, &c.,

ROBERT BIDDULPH,

General and Governor.

REPORT ON THE GIBRALTAR BLUE BOOK FOR 1898.

I.—FINANCIAL.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The following table gives the Heads of Revenue and Expenditure for 1898 as compared with 1897. Up to April 1898, the Government accounts were kept in pesetas and centimos, and since that date they have been kept in British sterling. For purposes of comparison, all amounts given in pesetas in former Blue Books have in the Returns in this Report been converted to sterling at the average official quarterly rate of the year to which they refer :—

Revenue.	1897.	1898.	Expenditure.	1897.	1898.
	£	£		£	£
1. Customs	9,942	12,229	1. Establishments :		
			Personal Emoluments	26,839	27,603
			Other charges	9,943	10,860
2. Port Dues and Wharfage	10,615	7,053	2. Pensions	1,814	1,628
3. Licenses and Internal Revenue	4,283	4,085	3. Ecclesiastical Grants	792	821
4. Fees and Reimbursements in Aid ...	8,583	7,004	4. Public Works—Ordinary	1,547	1,797
5. Post and Telegraph Offices	8,142	12,143	5. „ „ Extraordinary	5,124	2,646
6. Rents of Government Property	5,980	5,039	6. Crown Agents	115	88
7. Interest on Investments	353	350	7. Charges on Debt	—	224
8. Miscellaneous	3,869	8,068	8. Miscellaneous	1,915	2,463
9. Gain on Exchange	125	48	9. Loss on Exchange	5	808
Total ... ... £	51,893	56,019	Total ... ... £	48,094	48,878

In addition to the above there was a Capital Expenditure amounting on the 31st December 1898 to £26,186, which was met by advances from General Revenue Funds. Of this £15,000 was repaid in 1898 by a loan of £15,000 from Savings Bank Funds, leaving £11,186 still due to General Revenue.

The principal variations in the above table are due to the following causes :—

Customs Receipts.

The increase in 1898 is due partly to the introduction of a tax on tobacco, and partly to a large importation of wine to make up deficient stocks.

Port Dues.

A considerable decrease, the port dues having been lowered from the 1st of April.

Post and Telegraph Offices.

An increase, due to sales of stamps to dealers, the issue charged in Spanish currency having been withdrawn in 1898.

Rents.

A decrease, owing to loss of rent on property sold to the Admiralty.

Miscellaneous.

The variations between 1897 and 1898 are due almost entirely to sales of land to the War Department and the Admiralty.

The apparent increase in ordinary expenditure in 1898 is mainly due to the adoption of sterling on the 1st April, when the charges on general revenue were re-assessed at pts. 30 to the £, while in the comparative statement the expenditure in 1897 has been converted at pts. 31.85, the average official rate of the year.

In Public Works Extraordinary there was an expenditure on the New Drainage Works of £3,903 in 1897, and £1,839 in 1898.

The heavy loss on Exchange is due to the revaluation of outstanding balances quarterly, with a steadily falling rate of exchange.

GIBRALTAR, 1898.

The following was the total Revenue and Expenditure in the last five years :—

——	1894.	1895	1896.	1897.	1898.
	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue ...	51,146	54,514	53,080	51,893	56,019
Expenditure ...	49,073	48,777	50,620	48,094	48,878

Changes in Taxation.

By the Revenue Ordinance, 1898, which came into operation on the 1st April, a new tax of 1*d.* per lb. was levied on tobacco, and the Port dues were lowered and were regraded on a scale calculated to reduce this source of revenue by one half. The return from the tobacco was not large during the past year, as the Ordinance did not come into force until the 1st of April, and the importers had time to fill up their stocks beforehand. Tavern and wine licenses, of which there had been only two rates, were regraded on a sliding scale according to the rateable value of the premises licensed.

Assets and Liabilities.

The Assets and Liabilities on 31st December 1898 were as follows:—

Assets.			Liabilities.	
	£	£		£
Rents Outstanding	2,169		Personal Emoluments	20
Invested Funds	10,668		Pensions	170
Interest Due on Invested Funds	156		Deposits	360
Savings Bank Profits, 1897	2,053		Public Works	100
Advances, viz.:—			Due Drainage Works	251
Electric Lighting £26,186			„ Consulting Engineer (Electric Lighting) ...	125
Drainage Works... 681			Electric Lighting Loan	15,000
Sundry 265			Transit Postage due to Foreign Countries	879
	27,132		Telegraph Rates „ „	283
Asylum Fees due	23		Overdraft, Anglo-Egyptian Bank	20
Due Egyptian Parcel Post	5			17,208
„ for Telegrams sent	112			
„ for Cost of Special Police in Admiralty Works ...	77			
Cash balance in hand	4,608		Balance Assets over Liabilities	29,795
Total ... ... £	47,003		Total ... ... £	47,003

Public Debt.

The only Public Debt of Gibraltar is the loan from the Savings Bank of £15,000 for the installation of the electric light. It is repayable in 30 years by half yearly payments from General Revenue Funds for interest and sinking fund.

Currency.

Under an Order in Council of 1872, as amended and continued by an Order in 1881, the legal tender currency of Gibraltar from 1872 up to October last, was that of Spain, but the financial condition of the latter country led of late years to such violent fluctuations in the value of the peseta, that the situation, which had been growing yearly more acute, as a reference to former Blue Book reports will readily show, became intolerable as the Cuban revolution progressed and the danger of war with the United States seemed more imminent. In the meantime the Government of Gibraltar had assumed a heavy gold liability for the construction of the Commercial and Coaling Mole, and as the Spanish currency became more depreciated the necessity became more urgent for the public revenue of Gibraltar to be collected in a less unstable medium. The situation had been foreseen and provided against, as by an Order in Council passed in July 1897 the Currency Order in Council of 1881 was amended, and it was provided that where any fees, duties, or charges payable under any enactment in force, or which should thereafter become in force in Gibraltar, were assessed in denominations of the lawful money of the United Kingdom, such money should be the only lawful tender in payment thereof. Accordingly the Revenue Ordinance of 1898 was passed on the 30th March with effect from the 1st April, and in it all Customs duties, fees for licenses, port dues, and other charges were assessed in British money. This was followed by the Revision of Fees Ordinance passed on the 31st March 1898, by which all enactments under which fees, other than those provided for in the former Ordinance, were collected, were amended and the fees assessed in British money. The stability of the Government revenues was thus assured, but Spanish money still remained the legal tender of Gibraltar in private transactions, and fines inflicted by the different Courts were still paid in pesetas, as penalties, whether recovered under law or under rules passed under authority of any law, were not included in the terms of the Order in Council of 1897. The declaration of war between Spain and the United States in April 1898 was speedily followed by a heavy depreciation in the value of the currency of the former country, and in May, on the Madrid Exchange, gold rose to a premium of 120 per cent. The effect on business in Gibraltar was disastrous, as importers who purchased their goods with gold were selling them for depreciated silver, and were forced to put their prices at a figure which would enable them

to cover their liabilities should the dollar fall to its metallic value. The inconvenience was accentuated by the publication in Spain of a Decree prohibiting the export of silver, and the desire became general among all classes in Gibraltar to put an end to the risk and uncertainty attending all business transactions. With a view of obtaining the fullest possible information, and of ascertaining what was the wish of the majority of the business community, the Secretary of State sent out the Right Honourable Sir Ralph Thompson to conduct an enquiry on the spot. The result left no doubt as to the necessity for a change, and in August 1898, Orders were passed by the Queen in Council repealing the Currency Order of 1881, under which Spanish currency had been continued as the legal tender currency of Gibraltar, and making British money the legal tender in Gibraltar, and declaring certain portions of the Coinage Act, 1870, to be in force here. These Orders were to take effect from the date of proclamation by the Governor, and they were duly proclaimed on the 1st October 1898. On the same day the Gibraltar Laws Revision Ordinance was passed, adapting to the altered currency all those enactments which had not been affected by the Order in Council in 1897, and revised rules were also published providing for the recovery of penalties in British money. British money is thus now the sole legal tender in Gibraltar, except in payment of liabilities incurred before the proclamation of the above Orders, and except as provided by Section 6 of the Coinage Act, 1870, which allows contracts to be made in the currency of some other part of Her Majesty's dominions or of some foreign state. Spanish money, however, continues to be freely current.

Revenue of Public Boards.

There is no Municipality in Gibraltar, the charge of the streets and roads, the water supply, lighting and drainage, and the general sanitary control being vested in tbe Sanitary Commissioners, a Public Board selected partly from a panel of ratepayers presented by the Grand Jury, and partly from the Civil, Military, and Naval Officials serving in Gibraltar. The revenue and expenditure of this Board for the last five years (including loans) is as follows :—

——	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue ...	26,460	26,152	56,380	34,964	67,860
Expenditure ...	24,527	23,940	55,368	34,746	68,702

GIBRALTAR, 1898.

The heavy expenditure in the last three years has been mainly attributable to the New Drainage Works, two-thirds of the cost of which has been paid from Sanitary Funds. In 1898 a large sum was expended in the construction of new reservoirs.

The following table gives the debt of the Sanitary Board for the last five years :—

1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
£ 42,233	£ 41,268	£ 70,328	£ 62,222	£ 81,000

Under the provisions of the Sanitary Loans Ordinance, 1896, the repayment of loans is secured under debentures, issued for terms not exceeding thirty years, and the payment of the interest thereon is made a charge on the Sanitary Rates.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

There is but little information in the Blue Book under this head, since there is no regular trade in Gibraltar, except the supply of coal and other stores to passing vessels, and no returns of this are furnished to the Government; there is no land to cultivate, and no local industry which gives employment to any number of workmen except the manufacture of tobacco. No returns of imports and exports have ever been collected except of dutiable articles, a comparative statement of which for the last two years is given below.

	Imports.		Exports.	
	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.
Wine ... ... Galls.	139,827	200,897	29,262	27,179
Spirits... ... ... „	78,599	71,648	38,290	27,481
Malt Liquor ... ... „	676,305	622,543	—	—
Tobacco ... ... lbs.	5,499,424	5,142,519	2,289,728	1,903,945

Tobacco is imported into Gibraltar mainly in the leaf from the United States, and from Manila, and a large quantity, amounting to nearly half the declared export, is reshipped to Algiers and to Morocco ports for manufacture there. The remainder is made up in Gibraltar and is sold to vessels and to visitors passing through. There is a considerable trade with ships and passengers in Havana and Manila cigars, as the low duty enables the importer to sell at a low price.

Land Grants and Value of Land.

There is no land available for grants in Gibraltar, the Crown property being confined to houses and to land occupied as public gardens. Crown leases are granted for 21 years or for shorter terms, but land is never alienated from the Crown, though the Naval and Military Departments obtain from the Civil Government land required for the purposes of the Departments.

SHIPPING.

The following comparative tables give the nationalities and tonnage inwards and outwards for the last two years, and the total shipping for the last five years :—

Steam Vessels.

Nationality.	Entered.				Cleared.			
	1897.		1898.		1897.		1898.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British	2,652	3,319,162	2,767	3,562,171	2,639	3,311,203	2,742	3,555,563
Spain	266	164,825	241	137,289	260	164,325	238	136,236
Germany	203	383,632	206	358,392	201	378,636	204	356,012
Sweden and Norway ...	242	133,375	202	145,443	235	130,872	201	145,688
France	177	125,058	156	114,048	177	125,058	155	112,343
Holland	55	39,002	67	46,672	55	39,474	67	46,672
Denmark	44	35,757	46	38,513	44	35,757	46	38,513
Austria	34	42,372	33	39,279	34	42,372	33	39,279
Russia	16	11,401	25	19,291	16	11,401	25	19,291
Italy	26	21,444	20	22,935	26	21,444	19	22,604
Belgium	5	7,078	14	18,313	4	6,328	14	18,313
Greece	25	32,164	13	18,605	24	30,520	13	18,605
Others	4	4,704	4	524	4	4,704	4	524
Total... ...	3,749	4,319,974	3,794	4,521,475	3,719	4,302,094	3,761	4,509,643

Sailing Vessels.

British	134	12,315	111	12,648	131	12,213	109	12,279
Spain	255	11,354	199	9,243	226	8,896	191	9,079
Portugal	60	3,370	53	2,366	22	1,870	24	1,459
Sweden and Norway	38	7,663	30	5,561	34	7,173	28	5,290
Italy	16	5,213	13	7,163	13	4,625	14	7,714
Denmark	11	1,255	10	1,078	13	1,512	10	1,078
Russia	1	244	5	2,067	3	615	5	2,067
France	12	766	5	432	10	673	5	170
Holland	5	360	4	179	1	117	4	179
Austria...	4	2,020	3	1,294	4	1,413	3	1,294
Germany	2	2,053	1	316	2	2,053	1	316
Others	6	4,719	—	—	7	5,789	—	—
Total ...	544	51,332	434	42,347	466	46,949	394	40,925
Grand Total ...	4,293	4,371,306	4,228	4,563,822	4,285	4,349,043	4,155	4,550,568

Comparative statement of total shipping entered and cleared within the last five years :—

Nationality.	1894.		1895.		1896.		1897.		1898.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British	6,787	7,595,769	6,444	7,322,549	5,772	6,718,821	5,556	6,654,993	5,729	7,142,661
Foreign	3,464	2,245,238	2,720	1,755,707	2,754	1,942,110	2,992	2,065,176	2,654	1,971,729
Total	10,251	9,841,007	9,164	9,078,256	8,562	8,660,931	8,478	8,720,169	8,383	9,114,390

Last year was on the whole satisfactory, as there was an increase in the total tonnage of 394,221 tons, and in the British tonnage of 487,668. It was in 1895 that the keen rivalry of Algiers as a coaling port first began to be seriously felt, and the coaling firms there have spared no effort to make their port more attractive, and to reduce the expenses for vessels calling for bunker coals only. Latterly, however, Gibraltar has been able to offer increased advantages, as in 1897 all restrictions on coaling by night were removed, and in 1898 the port dues were lowered over 50 per cent. A still further advantage will shortly be added, as the new reservoirs, now nearing completion, may be expected to afford an ample supply of pure water available for shipping, and when the enclosed harbour and coaling moles are ready, Gibraltar will have no reason to fear competition with any Mediterranean port in the facilities it will be able to afford to shipping. The charges on shipping have since been further reduced by the abolition of the light dues formerly collected by the Trinity House Board.

III.—LEGISLATION.

The only measures of general interest enacted during the past year were those providing for the collection of the revenue in British sterling, and those making British money the lawful money of Gibraltar, and the object and scope of these have already been described in the remarks on currency.

A Pharmacy Ordinance was also passed on the lines of the Imperial Pharmacy Act, as there was before no legislation controlling the sale of poisons in Gibraltar.

IV.—EDUCATION.

There are in Gibraltar 13 State-aided Schools for primary education. Five of these, with 986 boys on the books, are conducted by the Christian Brothers, and four, with 500 girls and infants, are conducted by the Sisters of different religious Orders. The Hebrew community has two day schools, and a night school in the same building, with 177 on their books, and there is an undenominational public school for girls, with 155 on the books.

There is accommodation in these schools for 2,019 children, and there are only 1,818 on the books, and the average attendance is 1,442, so that there is ample provision for the wants of the place.

The conditions under which schools become eligible for grants from public funds are defined in an Education Code, framed by the Governor and approved by the Secretary of State, and an Inspector of Schools is appointed to see that they are strictly complied with, and also to examine the scholars periodically. The conditions are briefly:—

(1) That the school is a *bonâ fide* school for the primary education of the poorer classes.

(2) That it is managed solely in the public interest and not for any gain or profit.

(3) That no aliens are admitted until all British children have been provided for; and no child of wealthier parents is accepted if there are applicants for admission from among the poorer class; and

(4) That the school is opened at least a certain number of times in the year; that not less than 1½ hours of each attendance are devoted to secular instruction given in the English language; and that the buildings, teachers, books, and appliances are such as to satisfy the Inspector.

In 1898 the grant earned was £1,467.

In addition to the State-aided schools there are small private schools affording accommodation to about 400 children, and the orphan children who are inmates of Gavino's Asylum are taught in that Institution.

Secondary Education.

The provision for this, as regards boys, consists of a large and remarkably well conducted school kept by the Christian Brothers, the pupils of which have done well at the examinations of the College of Preceptors and other public examining bodies.

For girls there is a secondary school at the Loretto Convent, which is attended by children of all denominations.

There are no industrial, technical, or agricultural schools in Gibraltar.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals.

There is a Colonial Hospital, making up 82 beds, with a segregation block for infectious diseases making up 18 more, and a Lock ward with 11 beds. The Hospital is managed by a Board of Commissioners, and the wards are in charge of a surgeon and assistant surgeon, both of whom are resident, and are assisted by a staff of nursing sisters from the London Hospital. The number of cases treated during the year was 676, and the daily average in hospital was 57. There is also a branch hospital at the North Front for smallpox cases. It can accommodate 15 cases, and is in charge of an assistant surgeon, subject to the general supervision of the surgeon of the Colonial Hospital.

Asylums.

There is a lunatic asylum, supported from public revenue, which had in 1898 a daily average of 39 inmates. The building is remarkably well adapted for the purpose, and is bright and airy, and stands in grounds laid out as gardens, affording exercise for the patients.

It is in charge of a resident Superintendent, and is visited daily by the surgeon, and frequently by the police magistrate, who is in general control of the Institution.

Poor Houses.

There are no Government Poor-houses, but there are two excellent institutions supported by private bodies, one by the charity known as Gavino's Trust, and the other by the well-known religious community of the Little Sisters of the Poor.

Savings Bank.

The Government Savings Bank, which was started in connection with the Post Office in January 1882, had, on the 31st December 1898, deposits amounting to £4,262, and ptas. 4,440,026, standing to the credit of 3,879 depositors.

After the change of currency in October 1898, Spanish currency was no longer accepted on deposit, but in the last quarter of the year £4,383 was deposited. The interest paid is a halfpenny a month on each completed 20*s*., or 2½ per cent. per annum.

In addition to the Government Savings Bank, the Anglo-Egyptian Bank has opened a Savings Bank in which Spanish currency is accepted, and there are many benefit societies not under Government control.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police.

The good order maintained in the town leaves little to be desired, and the steady diminution in the number of offences reported to the police bears witness to the law-abiding disposition of the inhabitants. The small amount of crime is the more remarkable when it is remembered that, in addition to a resident population of about 24,000, the number of aliens entering Gibraltar daily now averages about 10,000. The number of offences against the person was rather larger than of late years, but the list was swelled by assaults which occurred during a strike.

Prison.

The Gaol well maintained the high standard of order and discipline to which it has been brought by the very capable Keeper. The average number of prisoners in confinement was 27, the total number of persons sentenced to imprisonment during the year being 143, of whom 128 were for periods of under three months. Of these, 7 were women. Of the 15 sentences exceeding three months duration, 12 were for terms of under one year; 1 was for twelve months, 1 for two years, and 1 for ten years. On the 31st December there were 28 prisoners in gaol—26 men

and 2 women. Of the former, 8 were natives of Gibraltar, 5 of the United Kingdom, 8 of Malta, and 5 of Spain. Both female prisoners were natives of Spain. The whole of the prisoners are confined in separate cells at night, and in the daytime are worked in association but in silence.

The following table gives the criminal statistics for the last five years:—

—	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
Offences reported to the Police... ...	1,709	1,450	1,336	1,104	895
Persons apprehended or summoned ...	1,664	1,431	1,321	1,085	870
Summary convictions for :—					
1. Offences against the person ...	43	48	57	52	69
2. Prædial larceny	—	—	—	—	—
3. Offences against property... ...	37	23	24	38	44
4. Other offences	1,323	1,063	1,044	794	622
Convictions in the Supreme Court :—					
1. Offences against the person ...	4	7	3	7	10
2. Prædial larceny	—	—	—	—	—
3. Offences against property... ...	2	3	2	3	2
4. Other offences	2	—	—	—	9
Acquittals...	258	290	190	189	120

Among "other offences" tried in the Police Court, a very large proportion of the cases are for breaches of the Aliens Order in Council, and a considerable number for offences against the Tobacco Ordinance, usually of a very trivial nature.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.

An impression prevails in many quarters, even among persons who have lived here for some years, that the native population of Gibraltar is steadily increasing, but the reverse is the case. The Police books, which are carefully checked every month, give the number of the people in every house on the Rock, and a more

accurate comparison can thus be made of the actual population in Gibraltar, as compared with former years, than is possible in most communities.

The following is a summary of the population as shown by the census of 1891 and the police returns on 31st December 1898. The former figures include visitors at the hotels and boarding-houses and the latter do not; but from returns furnished periodically by these establishments it is found that the average number of visitors at a time is considerably under 100 :—

Population.	1891.	1898.
Civil :—		
British subjects other than Maltese ...	16,064	15,122
Maltese living in Gibraltar	695	1,091
Total British subjects ...	16,759	16,213
Foreigners on Permit	2,341	1,942
Total civil population ...	19,100	18,155
Military in Gibraltar	5,896	5,938
Total population	24,996	24,093

When it is borne in mind that the staff and artificers employed in connection with the extensive harbour works, and their families, are included in the resident British subjects, and have come to the Rock since 1891, it is evident that there is a marked decrease in the native-born population.

Public Health.

The general public health of Gibraltar in 1898 was satisfactory, the death rate being only 17·79 per 1,000. The Health Officer reports the year as being on the whole a very satisfactory one, and that there was no epidemic, except an outbreak of diphtheria at Catalan Bay. The case mortality in this disease was most favourable, and is attributed to earlier recognition of the disease, and its prompt treatment by antitoxin. The following table

GIBRALTAR, 1898.

shows the mortality from diphtheria in 1898 as compared with former years :—

Year.	No. of Cases.	No. of Deaths.	Percentage.
1894... ...	21	9	42·8
1895... ...	8	2	25·0
1896... ...	29	13	44·8
1897... ...	65	18	27·6
1898... ...	31	5	16·1

The Health Officer remarks that of the five deaths in 1898, three were practically moribund on admission to hospital, and there was no chance for treatment.

Sanitation.

The sanitary charge of Gibraltar is entrusted to the Board of Sanitary Commissioners already referred to, and proper sanitation is enforced by regular house to house visits by sanitary inspectors. Full power is vested by law in the Commissioners to compel their requirements to be complied with by house owners and occupiers, and a higher standard of sanitation is being steadily enforced. The limited space in Gibraltar has the inevitable effect of creating a very dense population in some parts of the town, while the demand for accommodation and the consequent high rents cannot fail to cause overcrowding, but the Sanitary Commissioners do all in their power to check the evil.

Climate.

The climate of Gibraltar is excellent, bright and cool during the winter, while in the summer months the heat is usually tempered by a cool breeze. The rainfall for the year was 33·08 inches, the average rainfall for the five years ending 1897 being 35·11 inches. The mean temperature for the year was 64·0°, the mean maximum being 70·3° and the mean minimum 57·7°. The absolute maximum was 94° which was attained on the 28th July, and the absolute minimum 31·8° on the 12th January. The prevailing wind is easterly, though it frequently blows in the winter and spring from S.W. to N.W. It was not registered as being from the north at all during the year, and only three times from the south. The force is not given in the returns, which are from observations at the military observatory, 53 ft. above the sea level.

VIII.—POST AND TELEGRAPH SERVICE.

Comparative statement of post office business for the five years ending 31st December 1898 :—

Number dealt with.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
Letters and Post Cards.	1,638,788	1,470,160	1,431,345	1,625,698	1,753,768
Newspapers ...	536,708	443,560	504,868	481,728	498,206
Book packets ...	84,708	84,564	82,888	95,624	85,488
Parcels	17,118	17,757	19,181	20,815	22,093
Money and postal orders issued.	£ 27,394	£ 26,746	£ 24,904	£ 23,642	£ 31,067
Do. paid...	4,873	4,856	5,622	4.994	6,294

The rate of postage is ½*d.* per ½oz. locally, and 1*d.* to Spain and Morocco and to all parts of the British Empire, except Australia and New Zealand, and 2½*d.* to other countries.

The post office has a telegraph line connecting it with the Spanish telegraph system, and it is chiefly resorted to for telegrams to that country, but the delays and frequent mistakes made in repeating the messages in transit through the Spanish offices tend to throw the business for other countries into the hands of the Eastern Telegraph Company, which has two stations in Gibraltar, and has direct cables to Great Britain and to Morocco and eastward. The telephone service is in the hands of a private company.

IX.—MILITARY.

The garrison of Gibraltar consists wholly of the regular forces of the Crown, there being neither militia, volunteers, nor armed constabulary. The military expenditure in 1898 is returned as £256,552.

There is a considerable naval force constantly at Gibraltar, but no returns of the number or cost is furnished to the Blue Book. The Channel Squadron visits Gibraltar twice and a division of the Mediterranean fleet once during the year.

GIBRALTAR, 1898.

X.—GENERAL.

The event of the year 1898 which most seriously affected the interests of Gibraltar, although it had no connection with the place, was the war between Spain and the United States of America. The disastrous effect upon the financial condition of Spain of the reverses sustained by the Spanish military and naval forces has already been alluded to in the remarks on currency. The local effect was to force up the prices in Spanish money of every necessary of life, even of those of local production. Exchange has since returned to a more normal rate, but there has been, so far, no corresponding reduction in prices or in the general cost of living.

The chief public works of general importance were those in connection with the naval docks and the enclosed harbour, the north end of which is formed by the commercial and coaling moles, four-sevenths of the cost of which is borne by general revenue funds.

The contract for these works was taken up in the autumn by Messrs. Topham, Jones, and Railton, who already held a contract with the Admiralty for the extension of the new mole. The contractors took over charge of the whole of the works in December 1898, but the Admiralty had already been actively engaged for over two years, and rapid progress was made during the past year.

Another important work, which was finished during 1898, was the new main sewer, which conveys the whole drainage of the Rock to an outfall at the southern end below the Europa Point lighthouse, whence it is carried away to the open sea by the strong current in the Straits. Before this was opened the main outfall led into the bay at Rosia on the western shore, about half-way between the north front and Europa Point. The drainage of the northern end of the town, which lies at too low a level to be taken to the Rosia outfall, had its outlet into the bay at the northern end of the town just south of the markets, and several other subsidiary drains led directly into the bay just outside the ramparts enclosing the town. The old system led to much inconvenience when the wind was light and westerly, and it was settled in 1893 to alter the outfall to Europa Point. What was then decided on as a sanitary improvement became a matter of pressing necessity when Her Majesty's Government decided to enclose the waters lying west of the town, and form an important dockyard and a safe harbour for the fleets. The works were opened in November 1895, and in November 1898 the drainage of the town was turned through the new outfall, and there is now no sewage discharging into the waters in front of the town. The system is gravitation assisted by flushing, the sewage of the low-lying district north of the town being raised by Shone's ejectors and discharged into the head of the main sewer opposite the old northern outfall.

Another important public work brought to practical completion in 1898 was the installation of electric lighting, which is now exclusively used in all military buildings formerly lighted by gas and in all the buildings of the Civil Government. The lighting of the streets by electricity is about half finished, and the light is already supplied to some private houses, and is being extended as rapidly as the staff available will allow of.

The main changes in the establishment were the appointment in June of Commander L. A. W. Barnes Lawrence, R.N., to be captain of the port, a post in which he had been acting since June 1897, and the appointment in November of Mr. John Porral to be registrar of births and deaths.

The general observations on the growth of the community and the prospects of trade, which form the most interesting part of the Blue Book Reports of most British Colonies, find no place in that of Gibraltar, where the size of the place fixes an arbitrary limit on the population, and there is no room for expansion, and consequently no opening for immigration and but little for investment of capital. The natural limit thus placed upon the working population ensures that it shall not exceed the number which will be able to find employment in the coal trade or in the public and military and naval works which the growing importance of the station as a naval depôt will always entail, so that their condition will contrast agreeably with that of the people in many less-favoured of the British possessions.

H. M. JACKSON,

Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,

Gibraltar, 14th August, 1899.

No. 2.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR SIR R. BIDDULPH.

Downing Street,
26th September, 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 16th instant* transmitting the Annual Blue Book for 1898, together with a Report by the Colonial Secretary.

I have read with much interest and satisfaction the remarks which you make in this despatch on the general state of Gibraltar during the six years of your administration of the Government, and I avail myself of this opportunity to place on record my appreciation of the valuable services which you have rendered during that period both to Her Majesty's Government and to the local community.

I have, &c.,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

---

* No. 1.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 249.

GOLD COAST.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 220.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

November, 1898.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.; and
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1898.

[C.—9046–17.] *Price* 2*d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1897
217	Fiji	1896
218	Ceylon	,,
219	Lagos	,,
220	Gold Coast	,,
221	Labuan	,,
222	British Guiana	1896–97
223	Rodrigues	1896
224	Basutoland	1896–97
225	Jamaica	,,
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
227	Leeward Islands	1896
228	Bermuda	1897
229	Gambia	,,
230	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
231	Barbados...	,,
232	Lagos	,,
233	St. Vincent	,,
234	Sierra Leone	,,
235	Falkland Islands	,,
236	Straits Settlements	,,
237	British New Guinea	1896–97
238	Bahamas...	1897
239	St. Lucia...	,,
240	St. Helena	,,
241	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
242	British Honduras	,,
243	Malta	,,
244	Fiji	,,
245	Hong Kong	,,
246	Leeward Islands	,,
247	Grenada	,,
248	Gibraltar...	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 249.

GOLD COAST.

GOLD COAST, 1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 220.)

GOVERNOR HODGSON to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,

Accra,

July 2nd, 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you a Report by Mr. Haddon Smith, Acting Colonial Secretary, upon the Blue Book of the Gold Coast for the year 1897.

I have, &c.,

F. M. HODGSON,

Governor.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE GOLD COAST FOR 1897.

REVENUE.

1. The Colony is at present in the position of having no Public Debt. On 31st December 1897 the amount of surplus funds invested was valued at £30,000. No sales or investments were made during the year under review, the stock being the same as that reported on 31st December 1896.

753*—75—10/98 Wt 21620 D & S—5 (B)

2. The revenue collected during the year was £237,857 being £397 in excess of the previous year.

3. The subjoined statement shows the years in which the revenue exceeded the expenditure, and the amount of such excesses.

	£
1890	38,549
1891	52,614
1892	24,970
1893	22,848

4. The following table gives a comparison of the revenue for the last two years classified under the principal heads :—

Items of Revenue.	1896.	1897.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Wines, spirits, tobacco, guns, &c., (specific duties).	162,849	158,382	—	4,467
General merchandise (*ad valorem* duty).	42,126	42,606	480	—
Liquor licences	6,596	8,002	1,416	—
Stamps, (postal, telegraph, and revenue).	11,448	11,899	451	—
Other items	14,449	16,968	2,519	—
Total revenue ... £	237,458	237,857	4,866	4,467

EXPENDITURE.

5. The expenditure for the year 1897 amounted to £406,369, being £124,091 in excess of the year 1896, and £85,200 in excess of the amount originally voted by the Legislature for the services of the year. The excess is, however, due to expenditure on account of the Ashanti Expedition of 1896 being brought into account in 1897, amounting in all to £147,587.

6. The deposits for which the Colony was liable amounted to £155,470 as against £26,865 on 31st December 1896. The large increase of £128,605 is principally owing to the sum of £97,768, which is due to the Imperial Government on account of the Ashanti Expedition of 1896, having been placed during the year to the credit of the War Office in the books of the Colony.

7. The following table shows the years in which the expenditure has been in excess of revenue :—

	£
1887	17,092
1888	35,660
1889	13,614
1894	8,670
1895	35,213
1896	44,817
1897	168,512

The expenditure in 1897 included £147,587 paid on account of the Ashanti Expedition.

GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK.

8. The deposits show a decrease of £3,575 as compared with those of 1896. The deposits for the year under review were £3,674 as compared with £7,249 for the year 1896, while the withdrawals (including interest) were £5,637 as compared with £7,286 for the previous year, leaving an excess of withdrawals over deposits of £1,963. Interest taken out of the general revenue of the Colony and credited to depositors amounted to £106. The total amount credited, including interest, during the year was therefore £3,780 and the withdrawals £5,637. The largest decrease has been at Accra, the capital of the Colony. This is not surprising, owing to the establishment of the Bank of West Africa during the year 1897. At the same time, though the number of depositors has increased at the outstations, the amount of deposits has considerably fallen off at most stations, especially at the two important trading stations of Cape Coast and Axim.

9. The total amount at the credit of the Savings Bank in the books of the Colony on the 31st December 1897 was £3,812, as compared with £5,668 at the same period in the previous year. The whole of the £3,812 has been invested.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

10. There has been an increase of the trade of the Colony for the year under review, although the country beyond Ashanti has been in anything but a settled state. The total value of imports in 1897 was £784,188, and the value of the exports £857,793, thus making the total value of the trade of the Colony for the year £1,641,981, an increase of £71,861 on the year 1896.

GOLD COAST, 1897.

11. The following table shows the state of the trade of the Colony for the last seven years :—

Year.	Imports.		Exports.	Total.
	Paying duty.	Admitted free.		
	£	£	£	£
1891	464,188	201,593	684,304	1,350,086
1892	422,026	175,068	665,064	1,262,158
1893	475,346	243,006	722,106	1,440,460
1894	518,163	170,303	850,343	1,538,809
1895	563,290	231,691	877,803	1,672,784
1896	552,968	225,041	792,111	1,570,120
1897	562,418	221,770	857,793	1,641,981

Notwithstanding the disturbed state of the country as alluded to above, it will be seen from the above table that the value of trade in 1897 has only been exceeded by that of the trade in the year 1895.

12. The principal articles of trade are :—

Imports.—Cotton, woollen and silk goods, spirits, hardware, rice, flour, provisions, tobacco, building materials, and wearing-apparel.

Exports.—Palm oil, palm kernels, rubber, gold dust, timber, and minor industries, such as coffee, cocoa, monkey skins, and kola nuts.

13. The following comparative tables shew that the greater proportion of the trade is with the United Kingdom :—

Imports.

Year.	From the United Kingdom.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£
1892	407,038	9,925	180,132	597,095
1893	524,037	8,719	185,597	718,353
1894	504,255	12,068	172,143	688,466
1895	539,718	81,897	173,366	794,981
1896	569,828	282,520	179,661	778,009
1897	526,411	60,787	196,990	784,188

Exports.

Year.	To the United Kingdom.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£
1892	471,219	2,054	191,791	665,064
1893	530,300	27,016	164,790	722,107
1894	608,258	29,765	212,320	850,343
1895	586,415	38,211	253,177	877,803
1896	536,106	37,471	218,534	792,111
1897	581,904	35,667	240,222	857,793

14. The Customs receipts during the year at the principal ports of the Colony were as follows :—

Port.	Imports, exclusive of Spirits, Gunpowder, and Guns.	Spirits.	Gunpowder.	Guns.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£	£
Axim	6,330	9,944	233	108	16,615
Cape Coast	18,819	21,717	1,926	440	42,902
Saltpond	6,519	16,586	1,731	207	25,043
Winneba	2,363	13,688	258	53	16,362
Accra	14,436	27,969	1,428	214	44,047
Adda	3,483	8,524	57	67	12,131
Quittah...	2,998	8,997	1,252	103	13,350
Other stations	4,193	24,675	448	41	29,357
Totals ... [£	59,141	132,100	7,333	1,233	199,807

GOLD COAST 1897.

15. The following statement shows the general classification of all imports and exports :—

Imports.

Articles.	Value in Sterling	
	Of imports in detail, excluding expenses.	Total value, excluding expenses.
	£	£
I.—Live animals, food, drink, and narcotics.	—	193,029
II.—Raw materials :—		
(*a*) Textile	—	
(*b*) Metal	2,911	
(*c*) Other	15,513	
		18,424
III.—Manufactured articles :—		
(*a*) Textile	281,790	
(*b*) Metal	55,077	
(*c*) Other	140,456	
		477,323
IV.—Coin and bullion... ...	—	95,412
	Total ... £	784,188

Exports.

Articles.	Value in Sterling		
	Produce and Manufacture of the Colony.	British and Foreign and other Colonial Produce and Manufacture.	Totals.
	£	£	£
I.—Live animals, food, drink, and narcotics.	17	1,016	1,033
II.—Raw materials :—			
(*a*) Textile	—	464	464
(*b*) Metal	84,867	14	84,881
(*c*) Other	738,754	143	738,897
Carried forward ...	823,638	1,637	825,275

Exports—continued.

Articles.	Value in Sterling.		
	Produce and Manufacture of the Colony.	British and Foreign and other Colonial Produce and Manufacture.	Totals.
	£	£	£
Brought forward ...	823,638	1,637	825,275
III.—Manufactured articles :—			
(*a*) Textile	44	2,313	2,357
(*b*) Metal	—	628	628
(*c*) Other	47	5,556	5,603
IV.—Coin and bullion... ...	—	23,922	23,922
Total ... ... £	823,729	34,056	857,785

16. The supply of the staple articles, palm kernels and palm oil, has not been satisfactory, but the export of rubber shows a considerable improvement.

The following figures show the trade in the three important exports for the last three years :—

Year.	Palm Oil.		Palm Kernels.		Rubber.	
	Gallons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	lbs.	Value.
		£		£		£
1895	4,338,627	231,415	15,559	93,384	4,022,385	322,070
1896	2,394,563	126,857	13,046	85,349	3,735,439	313,817
1897	2,021,716	107,737	10,836	69,818	4,957,016	419,813

GOLD COAST, 1897.

17. The following statement shows the quantity and value of rubber exported from the Colony to the undermentioned countries during 1897 :—

Countries.	Quantity.	Value.
	lbs.	£
United Kingdom ...	4,595,696	391,106
Germany	361,031	28,691

In 1896 the shipments to the United Kingdom amounted to 3,307,685 lbs. valued at £283,044, and to Germany 424,093 lbs. valued at £30,398.

18. Rubber is becoming one of the prime necessities of civilisation. The last few years the use of pneumatic tyres for cycles and solid rubber tyres for carriages, has considerably increased the demand for rubber. It is believed that, if the output of rubber could be doubled in one year, so many new applications of the material would arise that the supply would not be sufficient, and consequently rubber would still retain its price. In any of the swampy regions of this Colony, where vegetation grows rank and sappy, there are certain to be found the trees or vines which produce rubber. Rubber is one of the chief sources of wealth in this Colony. No cultivation is needed, very little skill, and not much work.

19. The great fear as regards this industry is the destruction of the trees by the natives ; they are not satisfied only with tapping, but the trees are cut down so that they may obtain as much milk as possible. To ensure the preservation of the trees it may become necessary for the Government to intervene and preserve the forests by requiring natives to take out licences for working the rubber trees. The Germans in the neighbouring Colony of Togoland have such a system in force.

20. Another disadvantage that the rubber trade has to contend with is that the regions which produce rubber are precisely the regions most deadly to Europeans, and, again, when the rubber is collected it has to be brought to the port of exportation on the heads of carriers, which so increases the cost of transport that it often does not pay to export this special product.

21. The export of timber is steadily increasing ; the port of Axim in the Western District is practically the only port of

shipment, the logs being floated down the river Ancobra. The following statement will serve to show the trade of this industry for the last six years :—

Year.	Quantity.	Value.
	Feet.	£
1892	2,130,216	36,394
1893	3,407,226	50,428
1894	5,012,670	69,345
1895	3,587,337	28,245
1896	6,063,381	52,234
1897	15,236,216	90,569

22. Shippers and buyers should beware of the defective timber which is often thrown upon the market. The defective woods are stated to be the following, which are enumerated under the following technical headings :—"Hollow portion," "Shakes" "Star Shakes" "Wormed."

The dimensions of mahogany logs most in demand are 16 to 30 feet in length and 24 to 36 inches square.

23. The cultivation of coffee and cocoa is still on the increase, though the shipment of the former has decreased during the year 1897 as compared with 1896 ; at the same time a number of new plantations, especially in the Akwapim district, have been started. Coffee cultivation in this Colony is greatly handicapped. Those who have plantations near the coast have great difficulty in obtaining a sufficient supply of fresh water, while those whose plantations are far removed from the port of shipment have the cost of transport to contend with.

24. The following table shows the shipment of cocoa, coffee, and other products for the last five years :—

Year.	Cocoa.		Coffee.		Copra.		Guinea Grain.		Kola nuts.	
	lbs.	Value.	lbs.	Value.	lbs.	Value.	lbs.	Value.	Packages.	Value.
		£		£		£		£		£
1893 ...	3,460	93	21,437	630	248,304	831	183,224	621	979	25,116
1894 ...	20,312	546	41,488	1,265	649,600	1,940	174,412	1,186	1,202	28,511
1895 ...	28,906	470	51,755	1,753	482,608	1,712	154,693	580	2,352	30,565
1896 ...	86,754	2,275	141,836	4,065	273,840	852	26,594	193	3,156	33,278
1897 ...	156,672	3,196	102,146	3,068	272,272	803	22,873	229	4,278	37,870

25. The number of monkey skins shipped in 1897 amounted to 14,438, valued at £811. This trade has considerably fallen off and can no longer be considered as one of the important exports of the Colony. In 1894, 168,405 skins, valued at £41,001, were exported, whereas in 1896 the number of skins fell to 67,660, valued at £8,662, and in the year under review the decrease again is very marked. This no doubt is owing to the distance hunters have to go to procure their victims.

26. The gold mining industry is carried on chiefly in the Western District—in Wassaw and Appolonia. Three or four companies are doing steady work. The gold reefs of the mining district have been declared by experts to be similar to those of Johannesburg, and there is no reason why gold mining in this Colony in a very short space of time should not prove a decided success. The industry up to the present has been hampered owing to the serious difficulty of transporting the necessary machinery from the coast to the mines; but the Government is constructing a railway from the coast to the mining districts in the neighbourhood of Tarquah, and, when this is completed, it is confidently anticipated that the gold industry will receive an impetus which will result in the larger investment of capital for the development of existing mines and the opening of new ones. On the other hand, it cannot be expected that investors will risk their money in this part of Africa unless they are assured that they will have proper security as regards the land which has been conceded, and the Government has under consideration a Lands Bill, one of the objects of which is to afford such security.

27. The following table shows the weight and value of gold exported from the Colony during each of the last five years.

Year.	Weight.	Value.
	Oz.	£
1893	21,972	79,099
1894	21,332	76,795
1895	25,416	91,497
1896	23,941	86,186
1897	23,555	84,797

28. Considering the large extent of country that has been opened up during the last two years, the increase of spirits imported into the Colony is very small. The figures do not seem to shew that the demand for spirituous liquors is spreading among the native population.

GOLD COAST, 1897.

29. The following table gives a comparison of the importations of wines and spirits into the Colony during the years 1896 and 1897 :—

Description of Liquor.	Quantity Imported.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1896.	1897.		
	Old Wine Gallons.	Old Wine Gallons.	Old Wine Gallons.	Old Wine Gallons.
Rum	833,135	878,052	44,917	—
Gin and Geneva	330,804	335,163	4,359	—
Whisky	11,432	12,987	1,555	—
Brandy	822	760	—	62
Wines	22,177	18,969	—	3,208
Ale and Porter	26,220	23,388	—	2,832
Liqueurs	2,189	1,297	—	892
Totals ...	1,226,779	1,270,616	50,831	6,994

SHIPPING.

30. There is little change in the number or tonnage of vessels to record during the year under review. The figures for the years 1896 and 1897 are as follows :—

Nationality of Vessels.	Sailing Vessels.				Steamers.			
	1896.		1897.		1896.		1897.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
United Kingdom ...	1	105	3	315	254	366,857	247	361,742
Germany	4	1,540	3	1,385	87	108,168	90	108,029
France	—	—	—	—	50	65,870	70	92,449
United States ...	9	4,670	10	4,882	—	—	—	—
Other Nations ...	2	559	—	—	9	19,199	8	18,059
Totals ...	16	6,874	16	6,582	400	553,794	415	580,277

31. The mail service with England remains the same, the voyage taking, on an average, from Liverpool to Accra, a distance of 3,920 miles, 21 days. The mail service from the Colony to England still continues most irregular, and there is no competition.

LEGISLATION.

32. During the year 1897, the Legislative Council passed 23 Ordinances, of which the following are the most important :—

Ordinance No. 3 amends the Spirit Licence Ordinance 1887. It raises the half yearly and yearly licences from £2 10*s*. and £5 respectively, to £5 and £10 respectively, for every store situated in a place to which the Ordinance of 1887 originally applied. It prescribes the duties of £2 10s. for half yearly licences, and £5 for yearly, payable for every store situate in a place to which the Ordinance of 1887 has been applied, or shall by section 3 thereof by the Governor by proclamation be declared to apply. It imposes on every chief of a particular locality the duty of reporting every breach of the Ordinance in that locality that comes to his knowledge to the District Commissioner within whose jurisdiction the locality is situated.

Ordinance No. 4 increases the summary criminal jurisdiction of District Commissioners. Every District Commissioner is given jurisdiction to hear and determine besides the offences under Book II of the Criminal Code, misdemeanours and certain felonies under Book III of the Code, also attempts to commit, and conspiracies in respect of, any of the said offences. He is, however, restricted as regards the punishment he can inflict. He cannot impose a fine exceeding £50, or a term of imprisonment exceeding 6 months, except where under the Code or any other law a larger fine or a longer term of imprisonment is given.

No. 6, "The Peace Preservation Ordinance, 1897," suppresses the assembling together of armed men for unlawful purpose ; and, for the preservation of the peace, empowers the Governor in Council by proclamation published in the Gazette to declare it unlawful to carry arms or ammunition within any specified part of the Colony, but reserving the right to impose conditions and regulations under which the carrying of arms and ammunition may be licensed, and to make provision for the persons who may grant licences to have or carry arms or ammunition. Provision is made for a District Commissioner himself to search or to direct a search warrant to any person to enter and search any house, buildings, or places in the proclaimed district for any arms or ammunition suspected to be there in contravention of the Ordinance. Power is given to the Governor in Council to fine, not exceeding £500, under certain circumstances, any chief in a

proclaimed district, and provision is made, where additional constabulary or police has been sent to a proclaimed district, for the costs thereof to be paid by the inhabitants.

Ordinance No. 20, "an Ordinance to amend the Customs Ordinance," besides amending certain sections of Ordinance No. 10 of 1876, prevents any master, without the consent of the Comptroller or other proper officer of Customs, from discharging or permitting to be discharged, unless included in the declaration or being intermediate goods are declared to on transire, (1) any cargo, or (2) any articles or things comprised in the Victualling Bills made under sections 126 of the Customs Consolidation Act, 1876, or (3) any ship's stores wherever taken on board, or (4) any other article or thing, by whomsoever taken on board or shipped that is likely to contribute to general average. It vests in the Governor in Council the power to make, vary, and revoke rules to determine the fees payable under section 14 of Ordinance No. 10 of 1876, the duties of the Comptroller as Shipping Master, and to declare in respect of such duties the persons by whom fees shall be paid, and the deductions, if any, which may be made from wages by the master in respect thereof.

Ordinance No. 21, "an Ordinance to amend the Firearms, Ammunition, and Gunpowder Ordinance, 1892," provides for the depositing of flint guns with unrifled barrels in private warehouses at seaports and their removal therefrom, and for the issuing by the Comptroller at Accra and a District Commissioner at outstations licences for such private warehouses.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

33. The general health of the Colony shows a slight improvement on the two previous years, though the death-rate still remains exceptionally high. It must be remembered that the Europeans in the Colony are for the most part men in the prime of life, as there are no European children in the Colony and a man of 50 years of age is an exception. The following table shows the death-rate among Europeans for the year under review, also the number who have been invalided from the Colony :—

—	Population.	Died.	Invalided.	Death-rate per 1,000.	Per 1,000 Invalided.
Government officials ...	160	6	31	37·5	137·50
Non-officials	362	34	47	93·92	129·83

In the year 1896 there were 41 deaths among the Europeans and 58 were invalided.

34. The health of the officers employed in Ashanti and the Northern Territories is far better than that of those employed on the Coast, and, considering the hard life that many of these have to lead and that they are often away from the usual comforts of life, the conclusion to be drawn is that the climate of the "hinterland" is far healthier than that of the Coast.

35. It will be noticed from the foregoing table that the death-rate among the official class is less than that among the mercantile community. This may perhaps be attributed to the leave arrangements of the Government service whereby all European officials are permitted to proceed to Europe on leave after twelve months residential service on the Coast, and to the houses occupied by Government officials being away from the thickly populated part of the town. This is no trivial matter, for climatic conditions are such that what is at most an inconvenience in more temperate climates is a veritable calamity to the European resident in West Africa. Much of the comfort of life depends on attention to its minutiæ, and this is pre-eminently so in a country such as the Gold Coast.

36. Facilities for hospital treatment at Accra have much improved, and the arrangements in the Colonial hospital are as complete as possible. The introduction of European nurses has proved a great boon, and no doubt the extra nursing has saved many lives during the past year.

RAINFALL.

37. The following table shows the rainfall for the different months of the year at the most important towns of the Gold Coast Colony :—

Month.	Stations.					
	Accra.	Aburi.	Axim.	Adda.	Cape Coast.	Quittah.
January	0·83	0·45	0·00	0·00	0·78	0·00
February ...	0·52	5·93	2·82	0·11	0·91	0·76
March	1·39	2·88	8·25	0·71	6·58	1·33
April	3·13	3·89	4·88	4·75	4·37	1·87
May	11·63	9·46	21·31	10·84	18·61	7·34
June	3·65	3·38	15·51	2·95	9·40	2·59
Carried forward	21·15	25·99	52·77	19·36	40·65	13·89

RAINFALL—*continued.*

Month.	Stations.					
	Accra.	Aburi.	Axim.	Adda.	Cape Coast.	Quittah.
Brought forward	21·15	25·99	52·77	19·36	40·65	13·89
July	0·14	3·60	1·06	0·63	2·45	0·00
August	0·31	0·87	1·40	0·14	0·85	0·12
September ...	1·54	5·29	0·25	12·03	1·14	1·67
October	3·19	8·46	7·17	2·96	5·96	5·84
November ...	0·34	3·10	4·85	1·00	0·34	0·00
December ...	0·64	1·55	0·00	0·01	0·00	0·72
Totals ...	27·31	48·86	67·50	36·13	51·39	22·24

PUBLIC WORKS.

38. The fort at Kumassi has been completed, also a number of minor works, such as officers' quarters, offices, magazines, &c.

The most important works undertaken have been the construction of roads from chief coast centres to the interior. The following roads have been undertaken :—

From Accra to the Akim district, 25 miles.

From Tinkranku to Kpong, total length 190 miles. Work started in July, 25 miles completed up to 31st December, 1897.

From Axim to River Ankobra, 3 miles; work almost completed.

From Bonsa to Tarkwa, total 12 miles; 2 miles completed : work exceptionally heavy.

From Danoe to Dogplata, total length 23 miles, work completed.

The main roads, the bridges, and the public buildings throughout the Colony have been maintained in good order, and many improvements have been effected.

EXPERIMENTS FOR WATER SUPPLY.

39. A sum of money was specially set aside for carrying on investigations in the valley immediately behind Accra, with a view

to collecting water under ground into a well or wells to be pumped up into a reservoir on the high land adjacent. Special officers were sent out to make the necessary surveys, and to do the necessary borings and sinking of pits; but up to the end of the year the results were unsatisfactory, as the bulk of the water encountered was saline. The investigations are still being continued.

RAILWAYS.

40. Two railway surveys which were commenced in 1896 were completed in 1897; one from Accra to Kumassi *via* Insuaim, and the other from Takoradi Bay to Tarquah. Arrangements have been made for the construction of a line from Sekondi to Tarquah. This line will go through the mining and timber districts, and work was commenced early in 1898.

POST OFFICE.

41. There is not much change in the working of this department as compared with previous years. The gross revenue of the department for the year under review amounted to £4,009 4*s*. 6*d*. as against £4,285 11*s*. 5*d*. in 1896, showing a decrease of £276 6*s*. 11*d*.; the falling off is attributable to the money order transactions and the decrease in the sale of stamps. The establishment of a bank at Accra has undoubtedly curtailed the progress of the money order business. Money orders of the value of £12,974 7*s*. 3*d*. were issued during the year, as compared with £34,207 5*s*. 11*d*. issued during the year 1896.

Year.	No. of Letters, &c. posted.	No. of Registered Articles dealt with	Total amount of Money Order transactions.	Total amount of Postal Order transactions.	No. of Parcels.
			£ *s*. *d*.	£ *s*. *d*.	
1893	335,112	15,956	13,313 4 9	1,231 3 6	2,762
1894	386,028	18,068	13,271 8 3	2,021 7 6	3,224
1895	390,502	17,474	17,076 14 11	2,150 13 6	3,518
1896	545,824	19,324	34,207 5 11	2,489 9 6	3,563
1897	584,216	23,942	12,974 7 3	2,549 15 6	3,907

GOLD COAST, 1897.

42. 4,311 bags were brought to the Colony, and 3,673 bags were despatched from the various Post Offices in the Colony during the year, as against 3,890 received and 3,678 despatched during the year 1896.

TELEGRAPHS.

43. During the year 1897 the permanent telegraph line to Kumassi was completed. On this line hardly any poles are used, the wire being supported by trees. A line was put up between Kumassi and Kintampo a distance of 100 miles. This line should work satisfactorily as it is beyond the forest range. Owing to the increase of traffic it has been found necessary to erect a duplicate line between Accra and Cape Coast; this extra line was nearing completion at the close of the year.

There are 26 Government telegraph stations in the Colony: 17 on the coast line, and 9 in the interior.

44. The total number of messages dealt with during the year under review was 84,580 compared with 79,901 messages, showing an increase of 4,679 over the previous year. Out of the total number 84,580, Government messages amounted to 41,757, leaving the revenue to profit by 42,833 messages which brought in revenue amounting to £2,322 8*s*. 9*d*., being a decrease on the year 1896 of £206 4*s*.

45. The following table shows the number of messages sent, also cash received for the last five years :—

Year.	No. of Offices.	Miles of Line.	No. of Messages.	Cash receipt.
				£
1893	18	368	60,031	1 822
1894	20	375	73,776	2,293
1895	21	415	81,681	2,509
1896	24	512	79 901	2,538
1897	26	626	84,580	2,333

46. Interruptions have not been so frequent during the year 1897 as in previous years. Cases of theft of telegraph wire

or the destruction of telegraph property have considerably decreased. This is no doubt owing to the legislation which placed the responsibility for the maintenance of the line on the Chief through whose district it passed.

EDUCATION.

47. Fair progress has been made in the cause of education during the year 1897, though not at the same rate as in the preceding year. The total number of schools inspected during the year 1897 was 117, an increase of two. There is, however, a very considerable increase of new and as yet unassisted schools. This is owing to the pioneer work mainly done by the Basel Mission in the Ashanti district, and many of these schools will be shortly on the assisted list. Some of the Roman Catholic Mission Schools have been closed, and this accounts for a smaller number of scholars in average attendance.

48. As yet little has been done for the higher or secondary education of the Colony except the establishment of Government scholarships awarded on the result of the Cambridge senior local examination held in December of each year. Up to the present no candidate from this Colony has succeeded in satisfying the examiners. The Basel Mission, however, and the Wesleyan Mission have established high schools with some satisfactory results. The higher education is in some measure confined to the training of teachers, and the Basel Mission, as well as the Government schools at Accra and Cape Coast, have started giving suitable instruction to their pupil teachers.

49. *Industrial Instruction.*—Owing to the action of the Government in the matter of grants in aid for this subject, industrial work is receiving great attention at the hands of the managers of assisted schools. Nearly all the schools of any size are starting plantations for coffee, cocoa, and other products of the soil, and most of those with very fair success. Besides these, there are nearly forty schools to which are attached departments for carpentry, smith work, and book-binding. The most notable move in this direction is the building and furnishing of technical departments at the Government schools at Accra and Cape Coast. These will be completed early in the New Year, when a course in carpentering, &c. will be started.

50. The elementary subjects, reading, writing, and arithmetic, are taught in all schools, and the older scholars in most of the schools learn geography, history, book-keeping, shorthand, and needlework.

GOLD COAST, 1897.

51. The following tabulated statements will show the present state of elementary education in this Colony :—

A.—*Totals for the year* 1897.

Schools.	No. on Books.	Average attendance.	Teachers examined.	Grant earned.
119	11,638	8,798	100	£ 3,600

Since 1896 six new schools have been opened.

B.—*Classification of the Scholars.*

Denomination.	St. VII.	St. VI.	St. V.	St. IV.	St. III.	St. II.	St. I.	SS. II.	SS. I.	Infants.
Basel Mission ...	36	47	55	61	147	163	208	283	310	776
Wesleyan ...	38	96	184	279	380	454	516	480	545	1,730
R. Catholic ...	3	19	42	93	101	124	163	163	223	636
Government ...	9	40	43	59	83	86	110	143	116	371
Totals ...	86	202	324	492	711	827	1,057	1,067	1,194	3,513

This gives a decrease of 202 scholars as compared with 1896. The decrease is mainly to be observed in the sub-standard and infants.

BOTANICAL.

52. A quantity of Indian jute (*corchorus capsiolaris*) has been grown, and allowed to seed, and 112 packets of seeds have been distributed to the Missionaries and Chiefs with instructions as to

sowing, &c. The results are at present unknown. Jute growing is not popular with the natives, the mode of extracting the fibre necessitating hard work.

Theobroma cacao.—About 3,000 trees have been planted in the Government gardens. During the year 9 bags containing 1 cwt. each were shipped to England and obtained a very fair price.

Arabian coffee does not do well in this Colony, but Liberian coffee gives every satisfaction; in the year under review there were 3,400 trees in the Government gardens, and out of this number 2,300 were bearing fruit.

Cinnamomum zeylanicum.—The experiment of growing this cinnamon has not been successful, but further trials are to be made.

A quantity of the best white *Egyptian cotton* has been planted; the fibre obtained is rough and strong but dull in colour, owing to the moist atmosphere.

A large quantity of arrowroot (*maranta arundinacea*) which was planted in 1896 was taken up in 1897; though this plant grows well, it will never pay, owing to the high wages for labour, to grow it either for local consumption or for exportation.

Samples of fibres have been prepared from *furcræa gigantea*, *agave rigida*, var. *sisalana*, and jute. The two former produce a good strong fibre from 5 to 7 feet long; the latter is very poor, only being about 30 inches in length and is of a very dull colour and without any gloss.

53. The great curse in the agricultural districts of this Colony is a small insect commonly known as "the borer." To which class of beetles it belongs is uncertain, but it has been ascribed to the genus *herpetophygas* of which the only species hitherto known is said to have been found in Kaffraria; it enters near the bottom and makes a hole rootwards, thereby doing fatal injury to the tree. Every effort has been made to try and exterminate this pest. The soil all over the garden has been loosened to a depth of 8 or 10 inches, trees infested have been tarred, and a piece of steel wire pointed and barbed at one end has been inserted into the holes caused by the borer so as to kill them in the young stage.

General Remarks.

54. The year under review, in which Her Majesty the Queen completed the 60th year of Her reign, was an eventful one in the history of this Colony. The Ashanti Expedition of 1895–96 having opened up the way into the interior, there devolved upon

GOLD COAST, 1897.

the Government the duty of taking steps to establish British authority in the countries beyond Kumassi in which treaties had already been made with the various Chiefs during the years 1892 and 1894.

55. Captain Donald Stewart was accordingly despatched by the Governor of the Gold Coast from Coomassie on the 27th of November, 1896, to occupy Gambaga, and Lieutenant F. B. Henderson, R.N., was sent to occupy Bona and Wa.

56. The French had previously sent from the Senegal an expedition under Lieutenant Voulet, who occupied Wagadugu in September 1896 and then made a treaty in the Gurunsi country with a Chief named Amrahia; while the Germans under Dr. Grüner had made their way through Salaga and Yendi in the Neutral Zone to Sansanné Mango.

57. Captain Stewart reached Gambaga on the 24th of December 1896, and hoisted the British flag. On the 3rd of January 1897 a German officer, Baron von Massow, arrived at Gambaga, and wished to hoist the German flag by the side of the British one; but Captain Stewart refused to allow it, and Baron von Massow returned to Sansanné Mango.

58. Captain Stewart then proceeded on his way to Wagadugu, leaving a detachment to hold Gambaga. At Tenkrugu, half-way between Gambaga and Wagadugu, he was met by messengers from the King of Mossi, who had been driven out of Wagadugu by the French and appealed to him for protection in virtue of the treaty concluded with Mr. Ferguson in 1894. On the 7th of February 1897 Lieutenant Voulet also arrived at Tenkrugu. In order to avoid a conflict, Captain Stewart arranged with Lieutenant Voulet that the British mission should retire within the boundaries of Mamprusi, and the French mission should at the same time retire beyond the boundaries of Tenkrugu, and this arrangement was carried out.

59. Meanwhile, Lieutenant Henderson, proceeding to the westward, had, on the 2nd of January 1897, arrived at Bualé, where he found the Sofas in great force. The attitude of the Sofas was not unfriendly, but they would not let him go to Bona. They had occupied Bona and killed the king, and had established communication across the Gold Coast "Hinterland" with the Germans at Kraki. Wa was also held by the Sofas; but Mr. Henderson pushed on and hoisted the British flag there on the 9th of January, the Sofas retiring when he came. Samory himself was at Jimini in French territory. From Wa, Mr. Henderson went in February into the Gurunsi country, where he saw Amrahia, with whom the French had made a treaty, and ascertained that there was no King of Gurunsi, but that the country was split up into small portions, with five of which Mr. Henderson concluded treaties. On

returning to Wa, he received a deputation from Bona and Lobi, who reminded him that they had made a treaty with Mr. Ferguson, and asked for protection against the Sofas. Bona had already been raided by the Sofas, but Lobi was still untouched. Mr. Henderson, therefore, went to Dawkita, or Dokta, an important town in Lobi, about 20 miles north of Bona, and there on the 16th of March made a treaty with the new King (Kampa) of Bona, which was also signed by Danwa-Massa, Chief of Bona and Governor of Lobi.

60. The effect of Mr. Henderson's occupation of Dokta was to prevent the Sofas from raiding Lobi, and it appears to have been owing to their being otherwise unable to obtain food that they attacked him at Dokta on the 29th of March. After holding Dokta for four days with only 43 men against a force of Sofas estimated at 7,000, Mr. Henderson was compelled to retreat to Wa. This he did with a loss of two men killed and eight wounded, while the Sofa loss was estimated at 400 men.

61. The Sofas followed Mr. Henderson to Wa, where he was joined by a detachment of the Gold Coast Constabulary under Captain Cramer and for three days successfully resisted the attempts of the Sofas to drive him out; but, owing to the cowardice or treachery of the King of Wa, the British force ran short of water, and Mr. Henderson decided that the place must be evacuated. Before leaving, however, he attempted to parley with the Sofa leader, and went alone into the Sofa camp for that purpose. There he was detained by the Sofas, who said that he must go to Jimini to see Samory. Before leaving he arranged that, if he was detained, the British force should leave Wa the same night. Captain Cramer accordingly, after unsuccessfully attempting to obtain Mr. Henderson's release, and receiving a note from him to the effect that he did not think that the Sofas would do anything to him beyond keeping him a prisoner, left Wa on the 5th of April. The column was thrown into confusion by a panic among the carriers, but ultimately, after falling in with a French party under Captain Scal, Captain Cramer succeeded in joining Captain Stewart at Yariba on the 20th of April. In the course of the retreat Mr. Ferguson, who had been previously wounded, was abandoned by his carriers and was killed by a party of Sofas. Mr. Henderson was taken by the Sofas to Jimini. There he saw Samory, who appears to have been, on the whole, friendly, although intensely suspicious. With regard to the attack on the British force, Samory would only say that it came from God. After being detained for a few days at Jimini, Mr. Henderson was sent back to the coast, and arrived at Accra on the 14th of June.

62. Before this, the French under Captain Scal, having espoused the cause of Amrahia, against Barbatu, another Gurunsi raider, enabled Amrahia to defeat Barbatu, who took refuge with

GOLD COAST, 1897.

Captain Stewart at Yariba. Captain Stewart refused to give Barbatu up to the French; and on the 22nd of April he made with Captain Scal a "provisional agreement to prevent any conflicts or collisions between the French and English subjects in territories that are in dispute." A temporary boundary was agreed upon, which left Mamprusi and Dagarti in British occupation, and Gurunsi and Mossi in the occupation of the French.

63. Shortly afterwards another French expedition under Captain Hugot arrived on the scene from the north, and, upon the excuse that Barbatu, for whose conduct Captain Stewart had made himself responsible, had raided across the provisional boundary, proceeded to occupy Wa, which had been evacuated by the Sofas after the capture of Mr. Henderson.

64. The commencement of the rainy season made further operations difficult at this time, and it was arranged, on the recommendation of Sir W. Maxwell, that an officer should be sent out specially to take the command of the Colonial forces in the "hinterland" as soon as the rains were over. Major H. P. Northcott was selected for this duty, and left England on the 16th of October to take up the command, with the title of Commissioner and Commandant in the Northern Territories.

65. Pending Major Northcott's arrival, Major Jenkinson was in command of the Colonial forces; and in November, hearing that Bona had been evacuated by the Sofas, Major Jenkinson pushed on with great promptitude and effected the occupation of the town on the 17th of that month.

66. While these events were taking place on the north and west, reports kept coming in regarding the activity of German officials in the Neutral Zone, and on the 2nd of July the German Government were asked by Her Majesty's Government for an assurance that they would abstain from any operations against Yendi, to which a German expedition was said to be then advancing. It was pointed out to the German Government that the terms of the agreement of 1888 could not be disregarded by one of the parties to it without giving the other the right to secure its interests in such way as it might consider best, irrespective of that agreement. No answer was received from the German Government, and on the 2nd of August the Governor of the Gold Coast was ordered to occupy Salaga, which was done on the 21st of that month. At the close of the year, the British forces were still in occupation of Salaga. But, subsequently, assurances were received from the German Government that they had given orders for the withdrawal of any German troops which might be in the Neutral Zone, and Her Majesty's Government agreed to withdraw the British troops from the Zone with the

reservation that any infringement of the agreement by either party in the future would give the other the right to send troops again into the Neutral territory.

67. On the 14th of December 1897 the Colony suffered a severe loss by the lamented death at sea, on his way to England, of His Excellency Sir. William Maxwell, K.C.M.G., the Governor of the Gold Coast. The illness to which he succumbed was induced by the hardships he had undergone in the "hinterland," where he had been engaged during the unhealthiest season of the year in dealing with the various difficult questions that had arisen in connection with the movements of the French and the Sofas. To quote from the despatch of the Acting-Governor to the Secretary of State when reporting the late Governor's death, "His whole life was centred and absorbed in the work which his position cast upon him," and his death occurred at a very critical time in the history of the Colony, when the energy and devotion to duty which he displayed could ill be spared.

G. B. HADDON SMITH,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Accra, Gold Coast,

12th June, 1898.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 1-3, Great St. Thomas Apostle, E.C.

1898.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

No. 271.

GOLD COAST.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1898.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 249.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
September, 1899.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.; and
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1899.

[C. 9498-5] *Price* 2½*d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
243	Malta	1897
244	Fiji	,,
245	Hong Kong	,,
246	Leeward Islands	,,
247	Grenada	,,
248	Gibraltar	,,
249	Gold Coast	,,
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues	,,
251	British Solomon Islands	1897–98
252	Seychelles	1897
253	Labuan	,,
254	Ceylon	,,
255	Basutoland	1897–98
256	Newfoundland	1896–97
257	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1898
258	British New Guinea	1897–98
259	Bermuda	1898
260	Niger.—West African Frontier Force ...	1897–98
261	Jamaica	,,
262	Barbados...	1898
263	Falkland Islands	,,
264	Gambia	,,
265	St. Helena	,,
266	Leeward Islands	,,
267	St. Lucia	,,
268	Fiji	,,
269	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
270	Malta	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.

No 271.

GOLD COAST.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 249.)

ACTING GOVERNOR LOW to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,

Accra,

1st July 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you a Report by Mr. Haddon Smith, Acting Colonial Secretary, upon the Blue Book of the Gold Coast for the year 1898.

I have, &c.,

WM. LOW,

Acting Governor.

3585*—75—8/99 Wt 21935 D & S—5 (B)

GOLD COAST, 1898.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE GOLD COAST FOR 1898.

FINANCIAL.

The following table shows the heads of revenue and expenditure for the year 1898 as compared with those of the preceding year :—

Revenue.

Head.	1897.	1898.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs	200,988	225,766	24,778	—
Light dues...	1.129	1,111	—	18
Licences and material ... ... Revenue not otherwise classified	10,499	12,496	1,997	—
Fees of court or office payments for specific services, and Reimbursements in aid... ...	16,221	15,852	—	369
Post Office	424	460	36	—
Rents of Government property...	11	24	13	—
Interest	1,081	1,017	—	64
Miscellaneous	7,502	2 096	—	5,406
Grant in aid of Northern Territories.	—	45,000	45,000	—
Total	237,855	303,822	71,824	5,857

2. The total revenue during the year, exclusive of the grant in aid of £45,000, amounted to £258,822 as compared with £233,179 the preceding year, showing an increase of £25,643.

3. The increase under the head of Customs is owing to the improvement in trade, and the reasons of this are dealt with more fully under the heading of Imports and Exports of this report.

4. The cost of licences for the sale of liquors having been doubled during the year on the coast towns, and the system of requiring rum shops in all parts of the Colony to be licensed, will account for the increase under the head of " Licences."

5. The parliamentary grant of £45,000 was made in aid of expenses of operations in the Northern Territories of this Colony.

(6.) *Expenditure.*

Head.	1897.	1898.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Pensions and gratuities	4,607	5,198	591	—
Governor and Legislature ...	5,143	4,446	—	697
Colonial Secretary's office ...	4,822	4,306	—	516
Ashanti	13,723	4,304	—	9,419
Native affairs	3,612	2,799	—	813
Treasury department	5,116	4 913	—	203
Customs	12,799	12,273	—	526
Volta river preventive service ...	3,400	6,303	2,903	—
Printing office	1,585	1,639	54	—
Audit department	1,298	1,448	150	—
Lighthouse and signal stations ...	445	605	160	—
District commissioners	10,021	9,074	—	947
Supreme court	5,885	5,640	—	245
Law officers	1,490	1,566	76	—
Ecclesiastical and cemeteries ...	1,034	1,024	—	10
Constabulary department ...	31,932	35,665	3,733	—
Police department	11,545	12,864	1,319	—
Volunteers	682	760	78	—
Prisons department	6,684	6,186	—	498
Medical and sanitary	20,074	20,939	865	—
Education department	6,555	6,817	262	—
Botanical stations	857	1,016	159	—
Transport	13,080	14,780	1,700	—
Military expenditure	4,026	—	—	4,026
Carried forward	170,415	164,565	12,050	17,900

Head.	1897.	1898.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward	170,415	164,565	12,050	17,900
Rent, and purchases of land and houses.	3,131	1,750	—	1,381
Miscellaneous services	12,728	9,849	—	2,879
Special services	2,023	2,916	893	—
Post and telegraph offices ...	10,326	10,572	246	—
Public works	60,162	66,695	6,533	—
Ashanti special expenditure ...	147,588	603	—	146,985
Northern Territories	—	121,022	121,022	—
Totals	406,373	377,972	140,744	169,145

7. This gives a decrease in the expenditure of the Colony in the year of £28,401 as compared with the preceding year.

8. The increase in the cost of the Volta preventive service was caused by an increase in the European staff, which had been found necessary in order to keep down smuggling on this river.

9. The increase under constabulary is owing to salaries for 1897 due to officers and men who were serving in the Northern Territories being paid in 1898.

10. Under the heading Ashanti special expenditure in 1897 is included an amount of £97,769, the expenditure incurred by the Imperial Government in connection with the expedition to Kumasi in 1895 and 1896.

11. The cost of the operations in the Northern Territories in 1897, amounting to £24,034, does not appear in these accounts, as it was treated temporarily as an advance.

12. The following comparative table shows the revenue and expenditure for the last five years :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1894 ...	218,261	226,932
1895 ...	230,076	265,289
1896 ...	237,460	282,278
1897 ...	233,179	401,692
1898 ...	303,822	377,976

13. Although the Colony has no public debt, it is under an obligation to refund to Army funds an amount of £98,075, expended for the Ashanti expedition, and it has also to repay to the Imperial Treasury an amount of £24,870 which has been advanced to cover the cost of the extension of the telegraph line in the Northern Territories, in addition to the advances, amounting to £109,067, obtained for railway works.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports and Exports.

14. The total value of imports in 1898 was £960,336, and the value of exports £992,998, thus making the total value of the trade of the Colony for the year £1,953,334, an increase of £311,353 on the year 1897.

15. The following table shows the general classification of all imports :—

Articles.	Value in Sterling	
	Of imports in detail, excluding expenses.	Value, excluding expenses.
	£	£
I.—Live animals, food, drink, and narcotics.	—	200.519
II.—Raw materials :—		
(*a*) Metal	2,550	
(*b*) Other	6,257	
		8,807
III.—Manufactured articles :—		
(*a*) Textile	291,646	
(*b*) Metal	51,111	
(*c*) Other	169,569	
		512,326
IV.—Coin and bullion... ...	—	238,684
	Total ... £	960,336

GOLD COAST, 1898.

16. The customs receipts during the year at the principal ports of the Colony were as follows :—

Port	Imports, exclusive of Spirits, Gunpowder, and Guns.	Spirits.	Gunpowder.	Guns.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£	£
Accra	14,934	29,906	1,512	186	46,538
Addah	3,798	9,034	154	26	13,012
Axim	6,925	11,094	644	85	18,748
Cape Coast	20,335	28,171	2,537	905	51,948
Quitta	3,025	8,424	1,572	75	13,096
Saltpond	7,169	20,534	1,703	568	29,974
Winneba	2,880	16,174	793	157	20,004
Other stations	4,646	26,152	554	46	31,398
Totals ... £	63,712	149,489	9,469	2,048	224,718

17. The following comparative table shows that the greater proportion of the import trade is with the United Kingdom :—

Year.	From the United Kingdom.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Totals
	£	£	£	£
1894	504,255	12.068	172,143	688,466
1895	539,718	81,897	173,366	794.981
1896	569,828	28,520	179,661	768.009
1897	526,411	60.787	196,990	784.188
1898	726,197	43 101	191,038	960.33

18. The increase in the value of exports in 1898 over that of the preceding year amounts to £135,205.

19. From returns received from Ashanti it is shown that from 70,000 to 90,000 lbs. of rubber pass weekly, during the season, through Kumasi to the coast. There are other roads to the coast by which rubber is carried in large quantities from west and east; the main supply, however, from the west and north of the Colony now goes through Kumasi, as being the safest road to travel. Given improved transport, the output of rubber from this Colony could be trebled, considering that the whole of this rubber is at present brought down to the coast on the heads of carriers, that the cost of each carrier from Kumasi to Cape Coast is at the minimum 10*s*., and that it takes 1,400 carriers to bring down 70,000 lbs. of rubber, bringing the total cost to £700 for transport alone for an eight days' journey, to say nothing of the employment of human beings who could be far more profitably employed for the benefit of trade were they not made to perform the duties of beasts of burthen, owing to the want of railways throughout the Colony. Rubber is one of the chief sources of wealth in this Colony; the trees and vines which produce it are found in the many swampy regions of the Colony, and as no cultivation is needed, very little skill, and not much work, there is no difficulty in getting the natives to collect it. Moreover it is known that if the output of rubber could be doubled in one year, so many new applications of the material would arise that the supply would not be sufficient, and, consequently, rubber would still retain its price.

20. Timber, another of the most important products of this Colony, is handicapped as regards export owing to want of proper transport. It abounds in the forests of Ashanti, but cannot be used for trade purposes until a railway is run through the country.

21. Where there is water transport the timber trade is largely on the increase. Formerly, the port of Axim, in the Western District, was practically the only port of shipment, the logs being floated down the river Ancobra; but, during the year 1898, timber has been brought down the river Volta and shipped at Ada, a port in the Eastern District.

22. The different kinds of woods suitable for building purposes are stated to be odum, mahogany, and cedar.

Odum is a magnificent wood which withstands the ravages of that pest the white ant.

Palm oil still holds its own as one of the chief exports of this Colony.

GOLD COAST, 1898.

23. The following table shows the general classification of all exports :—

Articles.	Value in Sterling.		
	Produce and Manufacture of the Colony.	British and Foreign and other Colonial Produce and Manufacture	Totals.
	£	£	£
I.—Live animals, food, drink, and narcotics.	181	698	879
II.—Raw materials :—			
(*a*) Metal	63,838	—	63,838
(*b*) Other	895,701	—	895,701
III.—Manufactured articles :—			
(*a*) Textile	48	2,667	2,715
(*b*) Metal	—	388	388
(*c*) Other	66	2,224	2,290
IV.—Coin and bullion... ...	—	27,187	27,187
Total ... £	959,834	33,164	992,998

24. The following table shows the trade in three important exports for the last three years :—

Year.	Palm Oil.		Palm Kernels.		Rubber.	
	Gallons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	lbs.	Value.
		£		£		£
1896	2,394,563	126,857	13,046	85,349	3,735,439	313,817
1897	2,021,716	107,737	10,836	69,818	4,957,016	419,913
1898	2,145,138	114,288	9,732	66,378	5,984,984	551,667

25. The following statement will serve to show the trade of the timber industry for the last five years :—

Year.	Quantity.	Value.
	Feet.	£
1894	5,012,670	69,345
1895	3,587,337	28,245
1896	6,063,381	52,234
1897	15,236,216	90,569
1898	13,620,965	110,331

26. The following comparative statement shows the quantity and value of rubber exported from the Colony to the undermentioned countries during 1898 :—

Countries.	Quantity.		Value.	
	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.
	lbs.	lbs.	£	£
United Kingdom	4,595,696	5,380,755	391,106	495,502
Germany	361,031	600,800	28,691	55,910

27. The following comparative table shows that the greater proportion of the export trade is with the United Kingdom :—

Year.	To the United Kingdom.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£
1894	608,258	29,765	212,320	850,343
1895	586,415	38,211	253,177	877,803
1896	536,106	37,471	218,534	792,111
1897	581,904	35,667	240,222	857,793
1898	713,335	41,667	237,996	992,998

GOLD COAST, 1898.

28. The following table shows the state of the trade of the Colony for the last five years :—

Year.	Imports.		Exports.	Total.
	Paying duty.	Admitted free.		
	£	£	£	£
1894	518,163	170,303	850,343	1,538,809
1895	563,290	231,691	877,803	1,672,784
1896	552,968	225,041	792,111	1,570,120
1897	562,418	221,770	857,793	1,641,981
1898	599,508	360,828	992,998	1,953,334

29. It is gratifying to be able to report that articles of British manufacture hold their own in the markets of this Colony, the only foreign article which is imported in greater quantities than from England being what is known as "trade gin," and this spirit is solely obtained from Hamburg.

30. The mining industry in this Colony is very largely on the increase, and, although the year under review has been employed chiefly in the development of the mines, at the same time some work resulting in more immediate profit has been done. Several companies have been started during the year with the intention of commencing mining operations in this Colony, and it is some satisfaction to know that the promoters of these companies are not only experienced men with scientific knowledge, but are also possessed of the necessary capital to undertake the work with success. The gold industry of this Colony is likely to prove one of its most solid and valuable assets. Experts who have gained experience in the Transvaal gold fields assert that the banket reefs in this Colony are not only similar to but of higher grade than those in the Transvaal. In the Western Province of this Colony it is estimated that there are about 20 miles of banket formation, and if this land were treated in the same way as similar land is in Johannesburg, it is estimated that it would contain 13 million tons of banket reef from which about £40,000,000 worth of gold could be extracted by ten years

operations with 1,350 stamps and the cyanide process, yielding an annual profit of fully one and a quarter millions sterling per annum. This would necessitate an initial investment of £2,000,000, and the area of land would allow 40 companies to work, each returning a profit of £3,000 a month, provided the necessary capital was put in.

31. It will be impossible for any of the mines to be worked at the profit above mentioned until the railway in course of construction is completed, and this is felt by most of the companies, who are simply waiting for the completion of the railway to commence operations on a large scale. At present the cost of transport ranges from £18 to £50 per ton, and the impossibility of getting up suitable stamps and other machinery prevents the proper working of the mines; this serious obstacle would disappear with the opening of the railway.

32. Notwithstanding the great difficulties which have to be contended with at the present time in consequence of the inadequacy of the machinery, it will be of interest to know that one mine in the Wassaw District had an output in 1897 of 6,880 ozs. 14 dwts. which realized £27,757 19*s.* 7*d.*, and in 1898 the same company had an output of 4,433 ozs. realizing £17,588 16*s.* 3*d.*; another company in the same district in 1897 had an output of 2,479 ozs. valued at £9,307, and in 1898 an output of 4,368 ozs. realizing £16,480. In addition to this, one company has given an average during the latter half of the year under review of 1½ ozs. to the ton, another 1 oz. to the ton, while one company is stated to have produced gold so pure that 84*s.* per oz. was offered for it.

33. In consequence of the low market price for coffee the natives of the eastern or agricultural province of the Colony have devoted their attention more to the cultivation of cocoa, which during the year under review increased £6,420 per export as compared with 1897. An impetus has been given to this industry through the adoption of a scheme introduced by the Governor of the Colony (Sir F. M. Hodgson), whereby planters bring their coffee or cocoa to the Government Botanical Station which is situated in this district, and the Government pay upon the produce brought half its supposed market value, less a small sum to cover freight and other charges; the coffee or cocoa is then sent by the Government to England for sale, and upon receipt of the sale returns from England, the balance of the money is paid to the producers. In this way they not only receive full value for their coffee and cocoa, but by the Government paying them the estimated half value on delivery, the planters are enabled to continue their work instead of having to either sell to shippers on the coast at a low price, or to await the return of their money from the bankers in England.

34. The Government Curator has during the year visited the plantations in the district, and instructed the different planters as

GOLD COAST, 1898.

to the best methods of cultivating cocoa and coffee, and also as to the picking and preparing the pods and seeds so as to procure the best market price, and the efforts of the Government have met with hearty response and grateful appreciation.

35. The encouragement now given to the natives by Government will, no doubt, be the means of establishing a greater number of small plantations, but the Curator reports that "to make much headway with crops, expensive machinery is necessary to prepare them for the market." At present the preparation is done in the most primitive fashion.

36. The Government Botanical Station at Aburi is doing good work, in not only affording practical instruction in agriculture to the people but also in distributing useful and economic plants. During the year the following specimens of fruit trees have fruited for the first time in the garden, viz.: Star apple (*choysophyllum cainito*), sapodillo plum (*achras saponta*), and cherinoyer (*anona cherinolia*); the two first are natives of the West Indies and the third is Peruvian.

37. One hundred plants of a new variety of banana raised from seeds received from the Botanical Gardens, Trinidad, have been planted out, and are growing most successfully, and are preferred by the natives to the tasteless kind usually grown by them.

38. The following species of coffee have been grown at the Gardens and have proved a success:—*Coffea stenophylla* (Sierra Leone coffee), *liberica*; of this last kind there are 3,750 plants, covering about 12½ acres of ground.

39. Fibres as well as rubber plants are receiving a trial at the Gardens, and the Curator expects satisfactory results from them.

40. At the Botanical Station there is a system of apprenticeship, where boys receive daily instruction from the Curator in the theory and practice of gardening. After serving one year in the Botanical Gardens, they are sent at Government expense to Jamaica to undergo a further course of instruction for three years in the Botanical Gardens of that Island, and after that course they go through a final course of one year at Kew Gardens prior to their return to this Colony.

SHIPPING.

41. During the year 1898, as compared with 1897, there was a decrease of sailing vessels entered of 3,409 tons, and of those cleared a decrease of 1,144 tons.

There was also a decrease during the year 1898 of 7,466 tons of vessels entered, and 23,992 tons of those cleared, as compared with the preceding year.

42. The following table shows the comparative statement of total shipping inwards and outwards for the last five years :—

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.
1894	24	9,025	395	511,967
1895	14	5,008	399	534,051
1896	16	6,874	400	553,794
1897	16	6,582	415	580,277
1898	9	3,173	390	572,811

43. The mail service with England remains the same, the voyage from Liverpool to Accra, a distance of 3,920 miles, taking, on an average, 21 days. Although the service has not been accelerated during the year, there has been a decided improvement in the class of boat. With regard to the English lines, the mail service from the Colony to England is not as regular as it might be, and the homeward voyage even occupies more time than the voyage from England. The German line, by strict adherence to the time table and by completing the voyage to England in 16 days, is proving a serious competitor to the English Shipping Companies.

LEGISLATION.

44. During the year 19 Ordinances were passed. Whilst none of the Ordinances were of first rate importance, those with respect to loans and railways point to a new factor in the development of the Colony. The following are the most important Ordinances passed during the year :—

Criminal Procedure—(No. 2 of 1898).

45. By the Criminal Procedure Amendment Ordinance, 1898, the number of jurors required to sit in criminal trials was reduced from 12 to seven. It had been a long standing complaint with the business part of the community at assize towns that their frequent attendance as jurors interfered with their trade, and in these circumstances they pressed for remuneration for their services as jurors. The Government, holding that in the gratuitous performance of jury service lay the germ of public

GOLD COAST, 1898.

spirit in the Colony, declined to grant remuneration. At the same time it was recognised that merchants and others had a real grievance, and whilst in a previous Ordinance the assizes were made less frequent, by the present Ordinance it was enacted that juries should consist of seven jurors instead of 12 as heretofore. By these means jurors are summoned less frequently than formerly, whilst a smaller panel is required.

Advantage was taken to amend the law as to criminal procedure in other minor respects, the most important amendment being with regard to the procedure in cases where a person accused of crime was suspected of being a lunatic, the English procedure being adopted.

Travelling Commissioners—(No. 3 of 1898).

46. The Travelling Commissioners Ordinance in 1898 in five short sections gives definite judicial powers to officers appointed by the Governor as Travelling Commissioners. For some years officers styled Travelling Commissioners have travelled about the interiors of the Colony settling disputes between tribes, obtaining information for the Government, supervising the working of native courts, at times acting as officers of the Supreme Court; and in the outlying parts of the Colony they were in the habit of exercising jurisdiction on the ground that they were commissioners of the Colony. To remove any doubt as to the exercise of these last mentioned powers the Travelling Commissioners Ordinance enacts that any officer appointed by the Governor to be a Travelling Commissioner shall in any district, without further appointment, have the powers and jurisdiction of the District Commissioner of such district, but practically limits the exercise of these powers to cases in which such District Commissioner is, for one reason or another, unable to act. This empowers a Travelling Commissioner in criminal cases to impose a fine of £50 and to inflict imprisonment up to 10 months, and gives him civil jurisdiction up to £25; at the same time it subjects all his criminal decisions to summary review by the Chief Justice.

47. The Railway Loan Ordinance, 1898 (No. 6 of 1898), empowers the Governor to borrow £220,000 by the sale of inscribed stock for the construction and equipment of the Seccondee-Tarquah railway. The sinking fund begins three years from the first issue of stock.

Railways—(Nos. 7 & 17 of 1898).

48. The Railway Ordinance, 1898 (No. 7 of 1898), is a short enactment providing for the establishment and maintenance of Government railways in the Colony. Provision is made for the acquisition of lands, and the usual powers of entry on land are given. Power is vested in the Governor and Legislative Council to make regulations for carrying out the purposes of the Ordinance, and various offences relating to railways are created.

The provisions of the above mentioned Ordinance as to the entry on and the acquisition of land were amended and simplified by the Railway Amendment Ordinance, 1898 (No. 17 of 1898).

Customs Tariff—(Nos. 12 & 19 of 1898).

49. Under Ordinance No. 5 of 1887, the only dutiable articles were wine, beer and spirits, tobacco, and firearms with their adjuncts. Two years later, by Ordinance No. 25 of 1889, a 10 per cent. *ad valorem* duty was placed on 22 of the chief articles of import and on all unenumerated articles; but there was an exemption list of 97 articles, most of them of small value from a fiscal point of view.

These two Ordinances applied to the whole of the Colony originally, but, subsequently, in 1892 and again in 1894, the application of the above-mentioned enactments was limited to those parts of the Colony west of the Volta river, those parts of the Colony east of the Volta being made subject to a special and much lower tariff.

In 1896 was passed the Weights and Measures Ordinance, introducing into the Colony the imperial gallon as the standard measure of capacity; but, under the first-mentioned Tariff Ordinance, No. 5 of 1887, the duty on liquors was to be computed on the old wine gallon. To avoid the inconsistency of using the old wine gallon as the basis of computation of the liquor duty, and to allow traders to bargain on the basis of a measure which could be lawfully used in sales and contracts, it was necessary to amend the law. The Customs Tariff Ordinance, 1898 (No. 12 of 1898), was accordingly passed, substituting the imperial gallon as the measure by which spirits &c. were to be measured for the purposes of duty. At the same time the opportunity was seized to reduce the free list, and the articles exempted from the port duty were reduced from 97 to 33. The present Ordinance now supersedes the Ordinances of 1887 and 1889, but only applies to those parts of the Colony to the west of the Volta.

On the last day of the year the tariff underwent another change. By the Customs Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance, 1898 (No. 19 of 1898), the duty of 3*s.* per gallon on spirits was raised to 4*s.* 6*d.* per gallon. This increase of duty on the principal article of importation was necessary in order to meet the cost of the railway, the Accra breakwater, and other large public works on hand or in contemplation.

Adulteration of Palm Kernels—(No. 18 of 1898).

50. For years the question of legislation to prevent the adulteration of native produce has been before the Local Government, but, mercantile opinion being almost equally divided on the point, no action was taken. One section of the leading community quoted the example of the neighbouring Colony of Lagos, where an Adulteration Ordinance has been in force since 1889. To

this it was replied that the conditions of trade on the Gold Coast differed from those at Lagos, and that governmental action would tend to divert trade to one of the adjoining Colonies. Finally, the question was taken up by the merchants at home, principally in connection with rubber, and the Government thereupon appointed a committee of the Legislative Council to take evidence and report. After obtaining a large amount of evidence, the committee reported that there were practically only three articles which were subject to adulteration, viz. :—rubber, palm oil, and palm kernels. The committee further reported, that, as to rubber, merchants were able to and did safeguard themselves to a considerable extent against adulteration, and, further, that it would be unwise in any way to interfere with the rubber trade ; that, as to palm oil, there was no sufficient case for legislation, whilst legislative interference would probably result in injury to the Kwitta palm oil trade ; that, as to palm kernels, there was ample evidence to show that adulteration was systematically practised and that preventive legislation was likely to benefit the trade. In these circumstances, the Adulteration Ordinance, 1898, was passed, prohibiting under a penalty the purchase or sale of palm kernels soaked or otherwise adulterated. Up to the present date there have been very few prosecutions under the Ordinance, but its effect has been to produce a cleaner article at the chief palm kernel centres. There have been three or four prosecutions at Prampram—none elsewhere—and I understand from the District Commissioner at Prampram that the kernels are now much cleaner.

EDUCATION.

Primary.

51. Under the agency of the three missionary societies, viz. :—The Basel, Wesleyan, and Roman Catholic, elementary education has been rapidly spreading. In 1898, 112 schools of these societies were inspected and received grants. The efforts of the Basel Mission are chiefly directed to the interior, and their schools are to be found all over the eastern half of the Colony, from the coast to the verge of the Hinterland. The Roman Catholic Mission stations are not numerous, and are confined to the larger towns on the coast. The school management in the case of these two missions is European. The Wesleyan Mission extends along the entire coast line, and has only a few stations in the interior. The management is chiefly native.

52. There are also Government schools at Accra, Cape Coast, and Insuaim, and the total number of schools, assisted and not assisted, at the end of the year was 208. Reading, writing, and arithmetic are taught at all these schools ; in the advanced classes, history, geography, grammar, and, in a few cases, book-keeping and drawing are part of the curriculum.

Secondary.

53. With the exception of the small Wesleyan High School and one private school at Cape Coast, and the Teachers' Training College, under the Basel Mission, at Akropong, nothing is done to forward higher education. The Government scholarship, for natives who passed the Cambridge senior local examination, has been abolished by the Governor, as there was no likelihood of any candidate being successful.

The want of trained teachers is generally felt, and Government has not yet followed the example of the Basel Mission in establishing a training institution. Instruction is supposed to be given to Government teachers by the headmasters, but the frequent absence of these officers on other employment, has prevented the spasmodic effort in this direction from being of service.

Industrial, Technical, and Agricultural.

54. Plantations are attached to all the larger Basel Mission schools, to most of the Roman Catholic and to a few Wesleyan stations. Owing to the difficulties of transport, agriculture does not pay, except near the coast, and without such encouragement, lasting results cannot be expected. Technical instruction in handicraft, such as carpentry, smithwork, &c. is rare. It is to be regretted that industrial training is not made the principal aim of the educational system, especially in the Government and Wesleyan schools, which, by their position, have more facilities for this object. A small school in carpentry has recently been attached to the Government school, Accra, under a European master, and a similar arrangement may be made at Cape Coast. The Accra school is showing very good results.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

55. There are Government Hospitals at the following places in the Colony :—Accra, Cape Coast, Elmina, Axim, and Kwitta, although only at Accra and Cape Coast is there suitable accommodation for Europeans. The hospital arrangements at Accra, the capital of the Colony, are as complete as possible, and during the year the demand that has been made for better hospital accommodation at Cape Coast has received attention. The Secretary of State has approved of the Government bungalow which had been erected on Connor's Hill for the use of the Governor being converted into a hospital. The building affords ample accommodation for both native and European wards, and the site is an admirable one. Cape Coast is now in possession of a hospital which should meet the requirements of the large European mercantile community residing there.

GOLD COAST, 1898.

56. The following return will show the number of admittances to the hospitals during the year under review :—

Town.	Number admitted.	Native.	European.
Accra	903	862	41
Cape Coast...	279	271	8
Elmina	117	116	1
Quitta	121	121	—
Axim	52	52	—
Total	1,472	1,422	50

Asylum.

57. There is only one Lunatic Asylum in the Colony and that is at Accra. The following return shows the number of inmates for the last three years :—

—	1896.	1897.	1898.
Entered	21	18	27
Released	9	7	16

58. Poor Houses do not exist in the Colony, and I am pleased to say that there is no need for their establishment; poverty in the proper meaning of the word is unknown, and it is an exception to see a beggar.

59. There are no Reformatories, at present, in the Colony; but in view of the number of juveniles in the Prison it is a question whether their introduction has not now become a necessity.

Savings Bank.

60. The deposits for the year amounted to £4,914, the withdrawals including interest £3,722, leaving an excess of deposits on withdrawals of £1,192. The interest taken out of the general revenue of the Colony and credited to depositors amounts to £105. As compared with the previous year there is an increase of deposits, including interest credited, of £1,137. This cannot, however, be taken as indicating any rapid growth, as the deposits including interest credited in the year 1896 amounted to £7,377. There is no doubt that the establishment of the Bank of British West Africa at Accra has been the cause of the decrease in the amounts of the deposits. The following table shows the amount

of deposits at the principal stations in the Colony for the last two years :—

Station.	1897.	1898.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Accra	1,781	1,364	—	417
Addah	222	206	—	16
Axim	99	256	157	—
Cape Coast... ...	580	2,072	1,492	—
Chama	8	22	14	—
Elmina	163	78	—	85
Quitta	350	12	—	338
Saltpond	385	92	—	293
Tarkwa	21	75	54	—
Winneba	165	737	572	—
Total	3,774	4,914	2,289	1,149

There was a decrease of withdrawals in the year under review of £1,914.

61. The following table shows the synopsis of deposits, from which will be seen that deposits under £5 continue to increase, which is a healthy sign, and shows the reliance placed in the Bank by the poorer classes :—

Year.	No. of accounts under £5.	From £5 and under £10.	From £10 and under £20.	From £20 and under £50.	From £50 and under £100.	From £100 and under £200.	Over £200.	Total.
1896 ...	307	24	24	28	13	8	7	411
1897 ...	324	27	32	15	11	6	3	418
1898 ...	360	26	34	27	8	8	6	469

62. In 1897 the amount deposited by the natives of the Colony amounted to £1,748, while the amount deposited during the year under review was £3,478 ; this increase is an indication that the native of the Gold Coast is beginning to realize the value of a Government Savings Bank.

63. The Savings Bank of this Colony was established in 1888; it has, therefore, in the year under review completed ten years of its existence; consequently the following comparative statement of the transactions for the eleven years 1888 to 1898 should be interesting:—

Year	Balance.	Deposits.	Interests due on Deposits.	Total.	Amounts Withdrawn.	Interest paid on Withdrawals.	Total.	Balance
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1888 ...	—	993 19 0	7 4 4	1,001 3 4	51 13 0	—	51 13 0	949 10 4
1889 ...	949 10 4	2,663 10 0	40 14 2	3,653 14 6	439 9 0	1 2 7	440 11 7	3,213 2 11
1890 ...	3,213 2 11	1,665 6 8	45 19 11	4,924 9 6	2,705 6 6	3 13 3	2,708 19 9	2,215 9 9
1891 ...	2,215 9 9	3,212 11 2	64 1 7	5,492 2 6	2,331 7 8	9 2 3	2,340 9 11	3,151 12 7
1892 ...	3,151 17 7	3,144 2 8	88 3 0	6,383 18 3	2,865 4 2	9 6 0	2,874 10 2	3,509 8 1
1893 ...	3,509 8 1	3,112 5 6	83 10 9	6,705 4 4	2,776 11 0	4 5 10	2,780 16 10	3,924 7 6
1894 ...	3,924 7 6	5,999 19 7	104 6 11	10,028 14 0	4,860 5 4	6 6 10	4,866 12 2	5,162 1 10
1895 ...	5,162 1 10	4,564 11 9	110 13 1	9,837 6 8	4,251 18 11	6 14 9	4,258 13 8	5,578 13 0
1896 ...	5,578 13 0	7,249 13 9	127 7 0	12,955 13 9	7,277 3 0	9 13 3	7,286 16 3	5,668 17 6
1897 ...	5,668 17 6	3,674 1 1	106 8 9	9,449 7 4	5,613 4 10	23 19 1	5,637 3 11	3,812 3 5
1898 ...	3,812 3 5	4,812 5 4	105 18 10	8,730 7 7	3,716 11 1	5 19 9	3,722 11 10	5,007 15 9

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

64. The sanctioned strength of the Police Force is 394, at the end of the year under review the strength of the force was 377. The number of recruits enlisted during the year was 164, an increase of 18 on the year 1897. The men enlisted are natives of the Gold Coast, Sierra Leone, Lagos, and West Indies.

65. The force is armed with the Martini Henry carbine, and is put through an annual course of musketry.

66. The efficiency of the force is retarded by the want of proper barrack accommodation. As long as the men are compelled to live among the inhabitants of a town the force will never attain to a high standard of efficiency.

67. The criminal returns show a decrease in 1898 of 145 crimes for the whole Colony as compared with 1897.

Prisons.

68. The daily average number of prisoners in custody during the year was 312, as compared with 309 the previous year.

69. The following table shows the number of convictions for the last five years :—

—	Males.	Females.	Juveniles.	Totals.
1894	1,550	74	20	1,644
1895	1,859	101	46	2,006
1896	2,044	273	38	2,355
1897	1,879	220	51	2,150
1898	1,850	189	34	2,073

70. There are 14 prisons in the Colony, and the buildings used for the accommodation of prisoners are the forts erected by the Dutch and which are found at almost all the coast towns. They are unsuitable for prisons, and it is difficult to maintain the necessary discipline, since there is no system of solitary confinement. It is contemplated to erect a central prison.

71. In the prisons at Accra and Elmina the prisoners are employed as carpenters, shoemakers, tailors, and coopers. These trades have been carried on in the prison during the year with success. At the prisons in the other stations of the Colony the prisoners are employed exclusively on Government work as labourers and scavengers.

72. There were 17 escapes during the year, as compared with 15 in 1897, not one of the 17 being recaptured.

73. Ten prisoners received corporal punishment, as compared with 15 in 1897 and 22 in 1896.

74. New dietary rules were introduced during the year, the scale being on comparatively modern lines and extending in the classification of prisoners as regards diet.

75. The daily average number of prisoners in custody during each of the past three years was respectively as follows :—

Year.	Daily Average Number in Custody.
1896	330
1897	309
1898	312

76. The following are statistics of crime for the last five years :—

—	Apprehensions.					Convictions.				
	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897	1898.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
I. Offences against the person	1,067	961	1,187	986	1,089	552	556	667	601	593
II. Offences against property	784	782	730	744	846	383	427	411	416	492
III. Other offences	4,762	4,612	5,263	4,073	4,165	4,035	3,504	4,274	3,469	3,136
Totals	6,613	6,355	7,180	5,803	6,100	4,970	4,487	5,352	4,486	4,221
I. Murder, including infanticide, manslaughter, cutting and wounding, common assault.	46	34	78	47	38	18	25	45	21	21
II. Burglary and housebreaking	63	70	56	11	46	30	34	21	6	22
III. Arson	—	11	6	8	5	—	11	2	4	3
Totals	109	115	140	66	89	48	70	68	31	46

GOLD COAST, 1898.

VITAL STATISTICS.

77. It is impossible to give any accurate figures regarding the population, as there is no proper system in force of registering births and deaths.

78. The general health of the Colony has shown an improvement during the year under review as compared with that of previous years; this is especially marked amongst the Europeans. The chief reason of this is no doubt the improvement which has taken place in the dwelling-houses of the Europeans, both officials and non-officials, the houses now being erected away from the crowded and native quarter of the towns. Facilities for hospital treatment have very much improved of late years, and at Accra the advantage of European nurses has been much felt and appreciated.

79. Although the health generally has improved the death-rate still remains high, especially so when it is remembered that the European inhabitants are men who are in the prime of life, and who have been selected as physically fit for service in the Colony. At the same time, given improved dwelling-houses and better sanitation, there is no reason why the mortality should not diminish in this Colony as in many other Colonies which a few years ago had an equally bad reputation for unhealthiness.

80. There can be no doubt that the health in the Hinterland or away from the coast is better than that enjoyed in the coast towns and, as an instance of this, a number of officers have been actively employed during the year in the Hinterland and, notwithstanding the hard life which many of them have had to lead, there has only been one death.

81. The following table shows the death-rate among Europeans for the year under review, also the number who have been invalided from the Colony :—

—	Population.	Died.	Invalided.	Death-rate per 1,000.	Invalided, per 1,000.
Government officials ...	122	8	19	65·57	155·73
Non-officials	230	17	24	73·91	104·34

In the year 1897 there were 40 deaths among the Europeans and 78 were invalided. In a constantly changing population it is out of the question to keep accurate statistics. The above figures do not include European officials employed in the Northern Territories, who number at least 25, neither does it include prospectors who are constantly moving about the Colony and adjoining territories.

82. The health report of this Colony would be incomplete if reference was not made to the establishment of a School of Tropical Medicine in London. Considering how common malarial fever of a most malignant type is in this Colony, and the number of lives that are lost annually by the disease, it is worth all the expense and trouble involved that every medical man before being appointed to this Colony should have received a practical training in the microscopic diagnosis and the intelligent treatment of this fever. The need of this has been greatly felt for some years, and speaking personally as a resident of over 12 years, I have often noticed the want of reliance on the part of patients when being attended by newly appointed Medical Officers with no previous experience of tropical diseases, and the remark has often been heard that patients are far better able to attend themselves in cases of tropical fevers than the newly appointed Medical Officer, who lacks experience in these particular cases. The scheme is of such vital importance that the Legislature of this Colony unanimously voted a sum of money to support it.

83. Improvement has been made in the various towns in the Colony as regards sanitation, and the Government have had drains made, wells constructed, and public latrines built, and where swamps exist the land is being drained. There are two great difficulties to contend with in carrying out any efficient system of sanitation, viz. (*a*) the inadequate water supply, (*b*) the filthy and lazy habits of the very large majority of the native population. The people, who are too lazy and naturally dirty, will not use the public latrines supplied for them, but make every yard and street in the native quarter of the town into a virtual cesspool. The law is put into force, but I am afraid it will take some years before the native of this Colony becomes impressed with the necessity of cleanly habits as a safeguard to health.

84. The following table shows the rainfall for the different months of the year at the most important towns of the Colony :—

Month.	Stations.					
	Accra.	Aburi.	Axim.	Ada.	Cape Coast.	Quitta.
January	—	2·61	0·60	—	0·22	0·03
February ...	—	0·62	0·52	—	0·36	0·25
March	1·72	3·28	3·85	2·40	0·83	0·73
April	5·66	6·85	2·75	7·34	6·07	7·35
May	2·53	4·83	9·05	5·91	7·90	2·72
June	4·88	7·78	34·01	6·89	10·47	7·37
July	2·74	5·26	15·33	1·47	2·95	1·28
Carried forward	**17·53**	**31·23**	**66·11**	**24·01**	**28·80**	**19·73**

Month.	Stations.					
	Accra.	Aburi.	Axim.	Ada.	Cape Coast.	Quitta.
Brought forward	17·53	31·23	66·11	24·01	28·80	19·73
August	1·56	3·72	0·90	2·09	0·57	1·27
September ...	4·69	6·16	3·00	3·35	2·12	2·93
October	3.41	8·52	7·98	5·65	1·41	8·23
November ...	—	6·16	2·12	0·17	0·22	—
December ...	1·33	2·33	2·03	0·06	0·95	0·02
Totals ...	28·52	58·12	82·14	35·33	34·07	32·18

85. Referring to the temperature, the Chief Medical Officer in his report under meteorological conditions states, "The first quarter of the year was very dry and cool; the Harmattan wind began to blow very early and continued until nearly the beginning of the rainy season."

"The second and third quarters were also exceptionally cool, the sea breeze was strong and steady, the rains began earlier than usual, were more prolonged, and the rainfall was considerably above the average."

"The fourth quarter was warm and dry."

During the months of January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, October, and November the prevailing wind was N.W., in September it was W., and the month of December it was N.E. by E.

POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

86. The following comparative table will show the working of the Postal Department during the year 1897 and the year under review :—

Year.	No. of Letters posted.	No. of Registered Articles dealt with.	Total amount of Money Order transactions.	Total amount of Postal Order transactions.	No. of Parcels.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
1897 ...	584,216	23,942	12,974 7 3	2,549 15 6	2,928
1898 ...	756,973	23,995	12,843 17 9	2,761 0 6	2,909
Increase...	172,757	53	—	211 5 0	—
Decrease	—	—	130 9 6	—	

87. The continued decrease in the Money Order transactions as compared with the previous year is traceable to the establishment of a bank at Accra, which has become in a large measure the remitting medium between the Colony and other places with which the inhabitants have business relations.

88. It may interest stamp collectors to know that the amount received for philatelic purposes has decreased during the year under review to £154 14*s*. 6*d*., as compared with £368 14*s*. 2*d*. for the year 1897.

Telegraphs.

89. During the year 60 miles of telegraph line was erected north of Kintampo, in the Northern Territories of the Colony. For a year's work this may not seem much, but, considering the difficulties and obstacles which have to be encountered in the way of food and labour, the progress cannot be considered unsatisfactory. At date of writing the telegraph line has reached Bolé, a town 160 miles from Kumasi. On this line trees are used as much as possible in place of poles.

90. The work of construction of the line from Nkoranza to Attabubu was commenced, but owing to sickness among the European staff work was delayed.

91. At the commencement of the year 1898 the rate on telegrams was reduced to ½*d*. per word with a minimum charge of 6*d*. inclusive of address, whereas it had formerly been ½*d*. per word with a minimum charge of 1*s*. This change has not only brought an increase in the number of telegrams but also in the revenue. The total number of telegrams dealt with during the year was 119,242, being an increase of 34,662 over the previous year. The revenue derived was £2,585 15*s*. 2*d*., an increase of £253 6*s*. 5*d*. on the year 1897.

92. The number of messages handed in at Government offices for transmission by the African Direct Telegraph Company (Cable) amounted to 1,954, as compared with 1,357 in the previous year; the number received from the African Direct Telegraph Company for transmission over the inland line was 1,265, as compared with 991 in the previous year. The increase is a clear indication of the growing interest which is being taken in the development of the Colony. The number of cablegrams sent from and received at Accra are not known, as they are handed in direct to the Cable Co.

93. During the year there has been a decided decrease in the number of telegrams passing between the German Colony of Togoland and Europe. In 1897 the number of telegrams despatched from Togoland to Europe was 70, and the number received for the German Colony 60, whereas in the year under

review the numbers were 12 and 36 respectively. This falling off may be attributed to the utilisation of the alternative French land lines in Dahomey.

94. Interruptions in the telegraph line continue to be frequent. This is specially the case on the line between Cape Coast and Kumasi, but considering the dense forest country this line passes through, damage to the wire can hardly be unexpected.

95. There has been a steady increase in the mileage of the telegraph line during the last five years. In 1893 there were 368 miles of telegraph line in the Colony, whereas at the close of the year under review the mileage amounted to 700, and, considering that the transport of material increases considerably the further the line gets from the coast, the result must be considered satisfactory.

Telephones.

96. Telephones are chiefly used between the Government Offices, and that only at Accra. Three mercantile firms are also connected.

MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

97. There are no Imperial troops stationed in the Colony, although, owing to the employment of the local Constabulary in the Northern Territories, it was necessary to obtain a portion of the 2nd Battalion West India Regiment for garrison duty at Cape Coast and Kumasi for a few months of the year.

98. There is no Militia Force in the Colony.

99. The following table shows the strength of the Volunteer Force on 31st December 1898 :—

Officers.	Warrant Officer.	Sergeants.	Corporals.	Privates.	Signallers.	Band.	Total.
12	1	16	20	141	11	37	238

The force is recruited chiefly from the Government and mercantile clerks. The men enlisted are of a good class and the force with a little trouble and encouragement should be a valuable addition to the defence of this Colony. The whole force is put through an annual musketry course and the performance of the members is decidedly fair.

The expenditure of the force is estimated at £811.

100. The authorized strength of the constabulary or semi-military colonial force, commonly known as the Hausas, is 1,500.

The force is armed with the Martini Metford carbine and has Maxim guns as well as 7-pr. M.L.R.

The estimated cost of the force for the current year is £51,639.

General Observations.

101. The most important event which has occurred to this Colony in the year under review is the occupation of the country north of Kumasi, which is officially designated as the Northern Territories of the Gold Coast.

102. The operations in the Northern Territories have been conducted by Lieutenant-Colonel H. P. Northcott C.B., who held the position of Commissioner and Commandant. Large tracts of the territory have been surveyed, and a permanent trunk road has been constructed for about 50 miles. The tribes whose country had been devastated by the Sofas are rebuilding their towns and villages and trade has revived; and a small revenue, encouraging as a beginning and cheerfully contributed to by those concerned, is being raised. The establishment of Government stores in the Northern Territories, in order to give the people a taste for articles of merchandise, and also to accustom them to the use of money as the medium of exchange and to pave the way for the establishment of trading houses by mercantile firms, has been a successful experiment. It should be stated that spirits are excluded from these stores and from the Northern Territories generally.

103. The state of Ashanti is satisfactory. The Resident in his report states "Most of the kings have done their work willingly and I have had no great trouble in getting the orders of the Government obeyed. Taking Ashanti as a whole, the country seems contented and prosperous, a pauper being unknown." Considering the state of anarchy that existed in this country previous to the expedition of 1896, this report is most encouraging, if only to prove that the gain to humanity has justified the annexation of the country by Her Majesty's Government.

104. The work on the first railway in this Colony, viz. the line from the coast to the mining district of Tarquah was commenced during the year under review. The work during the year has been largely of a preliminary character, and apart from survey has been principally confined to the neighbourhood of Seccondee, which is the starting point of the line, and where the works are relatively heavier than at any other point on the line.

105. The first members of the railway staff arrived at Seccondee on the 17th February and began the survey of the line and the erection of quarters for the officials.

GOLD COAST, 1898.

106. Until the end of August work was considerably delayed by the uncertainty regarding the final adoption of Seccondee as the starting point of the railway, and by the phenomenally heavy rainfall in June and July. In the month of August the number of the railway staff was largely increased, and from that date the survey and construction work has been pushed on as fast as circumstances in this part of the world will allow.

107. The Engineer-in-Chief furnishes the following information as regards the work done up to the end of December 1898 :—

"10 miles of the railway were permanently staked and the route was located for a further distance of 20 miles. The road to Tarquah had also been accurately surveyed. Clearing—the line was cleared ready for earthwork for a distance of 5 miles. 38,000 cubic yards of earthwork were completed, extending over the first two miles of the line. Rail-laying was commenced. Permanent culverts in masonry had been completed along the first mile of the line. The buildings erected include 9 wooden bungalows for offices and quarters, and an iron workshop and running shed. The passenger station building at Seccondee was well advanced and the erection of a hospital had been begun. Materials and stores to the amount of 2,500 tons were landed. A temporary timber jetty was built, furnished with cranes, and connected with the station yard by rail. The largest surf boats are able to unload at this jetty at low water."

The Governor laid the first rail on 18th December.

108. In addition to the line of railway which is at present under construction, the Government have had surveys for lines of railways made between Accra and Insuaim, between Accra and Appam, between Appam and Insuaim, between Insuaim and Kumasi, between Tarquah and Kumasi, and between Accra and Kpong. The first five will tap the mining districts, and that from Accra to Kpong will tap the rich oil producing and cocoa districts of Akwapim and the Krobos and gather up the trade which comes down the Volta from the interior.

109. The one thing absolutely necessary to develop the country is railways ; and, as stated above, until railway communication is established it will be impossible for the different mines to open up their works in a satisfactory manner. There are a large number of mines awaiting the opening of the Seccondee-Tarquah railway so as to enable them to transport their necessary machinery for the successful working of the mines. At present, as materials can only be transported in loads on the heads of carriers, it is impossible to carry weights greater than 50 lbs. The impossibility of getting up sufficiently heavy machinery is a serious obstacle to the successful working of any mine, but this would disappear with the opening of the proposed railway lines. When it is considered that with the present cost of transport, ranging from £18 to £50 per ton, an average of 5,000 people cross the River

Prah weekly and that out of that number quite 4,000 carry loads, some idea may be formed as to whether a railway from the coast to Kumasi should be a success or not.

110. The opening up of the country by means of roads has received the special attention of the Government during the year under review. The main roads and bridges in the Colony have been maintained in good order.

111. There is no system of immigration in the Colony and if the labour question continues to remain in the same satisfactory state as it has been during the year 1898, there is no reason why the opening up of this important Colony should not be successfully undertaken by its own people and without the introduction of inhabitants from other parts of the globe.

112. Emigration from the Colony is very small. A few continue to leave for work under the Congo Government and railway, but even this number is on the decrease, and, as the demand for labour increases, it will be found that the Gold Coast native will not leave his country.

113. The New Hausa Cantonment, which is situated about three miles from the town of Accra was completed during the year so far as the officer's quarters, magazines, armoury, and offices were concerned, the quarters for the men now only remaining in order to complete the work.

114. On account of the expenditure which the Colony has had to incur in connection with the acquisition of Ashanti and the Northern Territories, some of the public works which it was contemplated to undertake in 1898 had to be postponed. A number of minor works have been undertaken, and the public buildings throughout the Colony have been maintained in good order.

115. There has been no change in the constitution of the Colony.

116. The principal changes in the public service of the Colony were :—

Mr. F. M. Hodgson, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, succeeded the late Sir William Maxwell, K.C.M.G., as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony.

Mr. W. Low, late Commissioner of the Island of Tobago, succeeded Mr. F. M. Hodgson, C.M.G., as Colonial Secretary of the Colony.

Mr. W. Clark, late Police Magistrate of Sierra Leone, succeeded Sir William Geary, Bart., as Attorney General of the Colony.

The Inspector General of the Constabulary, Major General Sir Francis Scott, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., was transferred to Trinidad as Commandant of the local forces of that Island.

GOLD COAST, 1898.

Captain G. Aplin, Inspector of the Constabulary, was transferred to Lagos on promotion to be Inspector General of the Constabulary of that Colony, and,

Mr. J. R. Holmes, a District Commissioner, was transferred to Cyprus on promotion to a Judgeship in that Island.

117. Now that the Colony is in a tranquil state the prospects of trade are most hopeful. As will be seen from returns in another part of this report the export of both oil and rubber has considerably increased, shipments of cocoa are also increasing, the disturbing influences which were prevalent in 1897, namely, Samory's hordes and the unrest in Ashanti, do not now exist, and the inhabitants of the interior have been able to continue their work in the rubber and palm forests. The consequence is that, during the year, there has been an increase in the amount of produce brought down to the coast, and there is a good prospect of an augmentation of trade.

The most important consideration in this question of increasing the trade zone is the provision at the earliest possible date of railways. Much of the good result of occupying the interior depends upon the rapidity with which internal transport can be carried out. An opportunity now occurs of founding a considerable market for British goods, but, unless the present means of transport be greatly improved, this opportunity will be lost, and it will be impossible to obtain the full benefit of the richness of the land.

118. The climate of the West Coast of Africa is not generally recognised as suitable for Europeans, but, given good physique and constitution, there is no reason why many Europeans should not preserve their health as well as they do in many other Colonies which are supposed to possess a healthier climate; but moderation in all things, especially as regards spirituous liquors, is absolutely essential.

119. The openings for white labour are few. The mines require miners and the mercantile firms need assistants, but all these men are sent out by appointment from England, and it is useless as well as hopeless for Europeans to come to this Colony on the prospect of obtaining employment.

120. The wages given to the labouring class are exceptionally high, when it is considered that the Government have to pay a carrier 1*s.* 3*d.* a day for transporting material weighing 40 lbs., and that that carrier can live well on 2*d.* a day or at most 3*d.* Two things are clearly shown, first, the carrier makes a large profit, and secondly, the Government are put to an enormous expense annually in connexion with transport, especially when it is considered that each ton of goods sent to Gambaga, the headquarters of the Northern Territories, costs £135 and the transport of each officer costs £108 annually.

121. During recent years the financial condition of the Colony has been disturbed by two events, both of which were unavoidable and both of which cost large sums of money. The first of these was the expedition to Kumasi and the occupation of Ashanti in 1896, and the second, the operations in the Northern Territories, rendered necessary by the raids committed upon tribes under our protection by Samory and his Sofas. Now that these two disturbing influences have been dealt with, the people are regaining confidence, towns and villages which had been destroyed are being rebuilt, and farms are being replanted. There is a demand for markets, and the importation of goods is steadily on the increase, and trade will push on to Ashanti and the Northern Territories.

122. The mining industry, which has been referred to elsewhere in this report, has considerably developed during the past year and has attracted an increased amount of capital to the Colony. There is every prospect of the trade of the Gold Coast increasing, and, as soon as the railways are constructed, the general condition of the Colony will improve. The possibilities of the Gold Coast as a market are not yet realised, nor its great produce capabilities. In addition to its great mineral wealth, there are forests of timber, all of which are capable of development if the necessary capital is forthcoming, and as soon as the country is opened up by railways and good roads.

G. B. HADDON SMITH,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office.

Accra,

16th June 1899.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

1899.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 247.

GRENADA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 209.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
November 1898.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 1-3, Great St. Thomas Apostle, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.; and
32, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, Hanover Street, Edinburgh, and
90, West Nile Street, Glasgow; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., Limited, 104, Grafton Street, Dublin.

1898.

[C. - 9046–15.] *Price* 1½*d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
219	Lagos	1896
220	Gold Coast	,,
221	Labuan	,,
222	British Guiana	1896–97
223	Rodrigues	1896
224	Basutoland	1896–97
225	Jamaica	,,
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
227	Leeward Islands	1896
228	Bermuda...	1897
229	Gambia	,,
230	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
231	Barbados...	,,
232	Lagos	,,
233	St. Vincent	,,
234	Sierra Leone	,,
235	Falkland Islands	,,
236	Straits Settlements	,,
237	British New Guinea	1896–97
238	Bahamas...	1897
239	St. Lucia	,,
240	St. Helena	,,
241	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
242	British Honduras	,,
243	Malta	,,
244	Fiji	,,
245	Hong Kong	,,
246	Leeward Islands	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 247.

GRENADA, 1897.

GRENADA.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 209.)

GOVERNOR SIR A. MOLONEY to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Grenada,
13th September, 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Report of the Colonial Secretary on the Blue Book of the Colony of Grenada for 1897.

I have, &c.,

ALFRED MOLONEY,
Governor.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT ON BLUE BOOK FOR 1897.

FINANCES.

As in the preceding year, the accounts of the Colony closed in 1897 with a deficit, which had increased in amount from £1,183 at 1st January to £4,040 at 31st December. Special causes contributed to this result, the value of the Public Works Stores (including their estimated depreciation in value), £1,616, having been written off the colonial assets, and an abnormal expenditure for consolidation of the laws, and for surveys and preliminary expenses in 1892-3 in connection with a scheme for lighting St. George's by electricity, having been brought to account during the year. It should here be noted that 1896 was the first year since 1883 in which there was a deficit.

Revenue.

2. The revenue collected amounted to £56,973, which was £698 more than in 1896 and £1,134 less than the average of the

737*—75—10/98 Wt 21620 D & S—5 (B)

five years 1891-95 : it failed to reach the estimate by £4,113. This latter result is attributable to a too sanguine forecast of the receipts from import duty, and to the revision of stamp duties at the end of 1896, combined with the suspension of certain court fees pending the enforcement of fresh legislation under the new edition of the laws, which was completed later in the year than was anticipated.

3. Much difficulty was experienced in collecting the Land and House Tax. Owing in part to laxity of the collecting officers, and in part to "tightness" of money consequent upon the general financial depression, a large proportion of these taxes fell into arrear for two years, and it required careful and tactful super vision on the part of the Government to secure that, without unduly pressing the peasantry, this important branch of the revenue was collected in 1897. It is satisfactory to record that these efforts were attended with a large measure of success, and the concomitant enquiries having disclosed many defects in the system and also some unfairness in the incidence of the House Tax, important changes were introduced towards the end of the year which are having their effect in the current year.

Expenditure.

4. £58,549 were expended in 1897, being £1,974 less than in 1896 and £917 less than the average of the five years 1891-95. Notwithstanding supplementary votes, and the abnormal charges referred to in the first paragraph, which were not provided for on the estimates, the disbursements were so carefully controlled that the original estimate of expenditure was not exceeded. As compared with 1896, the only items of interest are the decreases of £1,425, due to the amalgamation of the Treasury and Post Office and reductions in the combined department, and of £987, caused by the working of the new Education Code.

Public Debt.

5. No change was made in the amount of the Public Debt during the year, £127,770, of which £123,670 is held in 4 per cent Inscribed Stock, and £4,100 in 4½ per cent Debentures. Towards the redemption of this in due course sinking funds of £4,446 and £87, respectively, had accumulated at the end of 1897 in the hands of the Crown Agents for the Colonies as Trustees.

6. The Colony is also liable for the repayment in March 1903 of a loan of £1,000 made for the St. George's Water Works in 1879. The present Town Board of St. George's are laying by a proper sinking fund in the hands of the Government for this payment.

Trade and Shipping.

7. As 1897 was the third year in which the imports and exports of the Colony were correctly classified and the cost of usual charges added to their value, it is possible to institute a comparison between the three years, and tables are appended accordingly.

8. In the first table are shown the volume and direction of the trade for the three years :—

—	Imports.						Exports.		
	1895.	Percentage of Total.	1896.	Percentage of Total.	1897.	Percentage of Total.	1895.	1896.	1897.
	£		£		£		£	£	£
United Kingdom ...	78,079	44·43	66,485	43·06	78,893	48·00	140,736	169,499	138,656
British Colonies ...	42,151	23·99	42,504	27·52	40,126	24·41	5,616	5,790	4,283
Foreign Countries ...	55,482	31·58	45,416	29·42	45,337	27·59	25,668	8,594	11,500
Totals ...	175,712	—	154,405	—	164,356	—	172,020	183,883	154,439

GRENADA 1897.

9. In the year under review the Colony's trade was affected by three important factors—(1) the exceptionally low prices received for cocoa and cotton ; (2) the consequent unwillingness of capitalists to advance money to cultivators on the usual scale, and (3) the almost entire cessation of expenditure by the Government on extraordinary public works and on reconstruction of roads from loan funds. Fortunately, towards the close of the year, a marked and satisfactory change took place in regard to the price of cocoa, which from the lowest point it had yet reached in the London market rose rapidly to a price which placed it on a footing with Trinidad cocoa, hitherto at the head of the market for West Indian cocoa. The last quarter of the year, therefore, saved the situation, or the record of 1897 would have been a gloomy one.

10. It will be seen that in 1897 48 per cent. of the imports came from the United Kingdom, 24½ per cent. from British Colonies, and 27½ per cent. from Foreign Countries. This is the result as exhibited by the import returns, but, so far as Foreign Countries are concerned, it is misleading, as the bulk of the imports from British Colonies comes from Barbados and Trinidad and consists chiefly of foodstuffs from the United States of America. 88 per cent. of the imports from British Colonies in 1897 came from these neighbouring islands :—Barbados contributing £25,311, and Trinidad, £10,212 : the corresponding figures in 1885 were £38,300 and £16,654. Since that year the direct import trade with the United States of America has increased, under the stimulus of a good service of steamers, from £17,325 to £44,529, but at the out-ports of Grenville and Carriacou, whither goods imported to the chief town direct from New York still have to be transported by water after being landed at St. George's, it is evidently still found convenient to import by small sailing vessels, which bring their cargo direct to those ports from the neighbouring islands.

11. While it is probable that, if the returns disclosed with accuracy the country of origin of all goods, the imports from Foreign Countries would appear on an equal footing with those from the United Kingdom, it is clear that Great Britain is the consumer of by far the larger portion of the Colony's produce, as £138,656 (or about 90 per cent.) of a total value of £154,439 was sent there, the United States of America coming next with £8,106, and France and her colonies after that with £3,026.

12. The second table exhibits the value and direction of the trade with Foreign Countries according to the returns.

Average value 1890–94, £13,678—1895 abnormal.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.	IMPORTS.			EXPORTS.		
	1895.	1896.	1897.	1895.	1896.	1897.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
United States of America...	54,735	44,873	44,529	4,687	6,300	8,106
France and French Colonies	404	264	381	20,664	2,107	3,026
Holland and Dutch Colonies	110	168	67	—	—	9
Danish Colonies	28	21	360	—	—	—
Venezuela	201	89	—	278	146	59
Italy	4	1	—	—	—	—
Germany	—	—	—	39	41	300
Totals	55,482	45,416	45,337	25,668	8,594	11,500

The beginning of an export trade with Germany, chiefly in cocoa, is a feature of these statistics.

13. The next table divides the imports and exports for the triennial period into the usual four classes, and a further examination of Class I of the imports in 1897 discloses that 78 per cent. of the imports from the United States of America, and 45 per cent. of those from the United Kingdom belong to that class, which comprises live animals, food, drink, and narcotics.

—	IMPORTS.			EXPORTS.		
	1895.	1896.	1897.	1895.	1896.	1897.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Live animals, food, drink, and narcotics.	85,115	71,043	76,598	162,944	175,647	148,907
Raw materials ...	17,089	11,410	10,656	7,705	6,458	4,314
Manufactured articles.	73,508	71,952	77,102	1,171	599	274
Coin and bullion ...	—	—	—	200	1,179	944
Totals ...	175,712	154,405	164,356	172,020	183,883	154,439

GRENADA, 1897.

14. The value of the principal products of Grenada exported in the three years is given in the fourth table :—

—	1895.	1896.	1897.
	£	£	£
Cocoa	138,520	159,519	132,642
Spices	20,984	12,424	13,503
Cotton and cotton seed ...	4,563	4,474	2,720
Live stock	1,385	1,304	1,230
Firewood	466	538	605
Fruit	584	880	540
Poultry	204	235	226
Turtle and turtle shell ...	265	291	270
Kola nuts	133	180	88
Coffee	66	217	283
Logwood	1,733	372	302

and the countries to which the leading staples, cocoa, spices, and cotton, were sent in those years are given in the next.

—	Cocoa.			Spices.			Cott n and Cott n Seed.		
	1895.	1896.	1897.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1895.	1896.	1897.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	115,734	152,725	124,172	19,435	11,064	10,616	4,561	4,474	2,715
British Colonies	160	66	5	218	71	17	—	—	5
United States of America	3,874	4,752	5,164	566	1,276	2,858	—	—	—
France	18,752	1,948	3,001	765	—	12	2	—	—
Germany	—	28	300	—	13	—	—	—	—
Totals	138,520	159,519	132,642	20,984	12,424	13,503	4,563	4,474	2,720

GRENADA, 1897.

15. It is believed that the exports to France, as shown in the 1895 statistics, are incorrect, being quite abnormal and without known cause. The error may perhaps be due to the fact that cocoa is sometimes shipped for Havre with the option of being taken on to England if so desired, and it is possible that such shipments may in 1895 have been booked as exported to France, whereas a large proportion is always carried on to England.

16. The trade with the sister colonies of the Windward Islands Government, which has never been extensive, appears, from the following figures, to be steadily dwindling :—

	Imports.			Exports.		
	1895.	1896.	1897.	1895.	1896.	1897.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
St. Vincent	2,247	1,470	1,229	265	177	84
St. Lucia	103	52	101	420	38	36

Shipping.

17. The subjoined table compares the figures of the last three years, and shows that there was but a slight decrease in 1897 in the tonnage entered and cleared as compared with the preceding year, although there was a marked falling off when contrasted with 1895. In that year, however, the number of steamers entered and cleared was abnormal, because of 22 steamers having coaled at the then newly established coaling wharf of Messrs. Otway Brothers, the work of which has since been suspended.

Nationality.	Entered.						Cleared.					
	Tonnage of Steamers.			Tonnage of Sailing Vessels.			Tonnage of Steamers.			Tonnage of Sailing Vessels.		
	1895.	1896.	1897.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1895.	1896.	1897.
British	239,494	210,740	209,922	11,159	9,887	9,563	239,699	213,647	213,421	11,453	9,956	9,457
Foreign ...	594	—	—	3,730	768	694	594	—	—	3,431	730	751
Totals ...	24 ,088	210,740	209,922	14,889	10,655	10,257	240,293	213,647	213,421	14,884	10,686	10,208

AGRICULTURE.

Cocoa.

18. The weather of the year was on the whole favourable to agriculturists, the rainfall being average, and the crop of the chief staple, cocoa, for the year ending 30th September reached a total of 54,597 bags, being the largest since 1893-4, when the record crop (55,666 bags) was gathered. Unfortunately for the planters, the London market, although in the end highly satisfactory, showed such varying results during the year that the full pecuniary advantage of this fine yield was not experienced. The year commenced with a good demand, but with poor prices, which fell in the spring to the lowest point yet reached. At this juncture an extraordinary increase of consumption appears to have taken place in the United Kingdom, (the Board of Trade returns show an increase of 13 per cent. in *raw cocoa alone*), and the stock being unequal to the demand, prices steadily rose until at the end of October from 15*s.* to 17*s.* more per cwt. than in April was realised, and, as has been already remarked, Grenada cocoa attained the same position in the market as that of Trinidad.

Many improvements are taking place in Grenada in regard to both the cultivation and the curing of cocoa. It is being borne in upon the peasant proprietor by degrees that he must fork, drain, and manure his cocoa patch in order to secure the best results and keep pace with the large estates in his neighbourhood. If it were possible to devise some practical arrangement whereby he could ferment and dry the beans as successfully as his better equipped neighbour, there is no reason why a sensible diminution in quantity of the "common" grade of Grenada cocoa which now finds its way into the market should not take place.

Spices.

19. Although it is well known that a large area of young nutmeg cultivation is gradually reaching the bearing stage, the returns do not disclose the increase of output which might be expected in the circumstances. The quantity of spices (chiefly nutmegs and mace) exported in the last five years was as follows :—

Year.	Cwt.
1893	2,086
1894	1,916
1895	3,639
1896	2,516
1897	2,505

The nutmeg crop of 1895 was altogether exceptional, 3,220 cwt. being exported ; that of 1897 was about an average crop, and prices in the London market were not so good as in preceding

years. Nutmeg cultivation is chiefly carried on by l rge proprietors in Grenada, and much care and attention are bestowed on all details.

Coffee.

20. The area of land under cultivation in coffee, although not accurately known, has undoubtedly much increased of late years, and, as a large proportion is consumed locally, the actual output cannot be traced. In 1897 only 31 cwt. were imported, while 63 cwt. were exported, and this in face of an exceptionally bad market abroad, prices falling so low that it was possible to import coffee from Brazil viâ New York and sell it in Grenada cheaper than the local product. This state of affairs has unquestionably discouraged cultivators from further efforts, and it is to be hoped that it may not be permanent, as the Colony is well suited to the growth of coffee, especially Liberian.

Sugar Cane.

21. No sugar left the Colony in 1897, and this, coupled with the fact that 91,892 lbs. of muscovado sugar were imported as against 68,946 lbs. in the preceding year, points to the conclusion that the local over-production of 1896 was succeeded by a period of comparative inaction in growth of the sugar cane in 1897. The sugar made in the island is mostly of such a low grade that it is questionable whether it would not be better for the labouring class to consume imported muscovado altogether. 57,406 gallons of rum were manufactured in the year, being an increase of 4,511 gallons on 1896, and of 13,956 gallons on 1895.

Botanic Station.

22. With Governor Sir Alfred Moloney's arrival in June a period of active propaganda in connection with the Botanic Station was inaugurated. The Curator was required to pay periodical and frequent visits to the out-districts with the object of visiting and instructing the peasant proprietors in proper methods of cultivation, leaflets with a similar object were freely distributed, monthly lists of plants and seeds available at the Station for sale were published, and every effort was made to induce on the one hand the local cultivators to take an interest in the work and objects of the Station, and on the other to ensure that that institution fulfils the purpose of its creation. At the same time experimental shipments of fruit and other products have been made with the view of testing the markets, and the results of such proceedings have been published widely in the Colony. The vital question of Forest Conservancy has also been taken up with vigour, and good progress made towards establishing a reserve on the Crown Lands in the centre of the island. It is perhaps too early to note any marked results from this energetic and timely action, but of the future outcome there can be but one opinion.

Meteorological.

23. The rainfall at the Richmond Hill Observatory was 82·49 inches, that is to say, about normal : the highest amount recorded was at the Grand Etang, 181 inches, and the lowest at Carriacou, 56 inches. At Richmond Hill the mean pressure for the year was 29·906, and the mean temperature 79·7°, the highest reading being 89·8° on the 28th March, and the lowest 69·2° on the 4th December. Rain fell there on 236 days of the year.

On the 8th November there were heavy rains in St. John's Parish, which flooded the Gouyave River and damaged the recently constructed protecting bank of boulders. Again on the 6th November, there was a heavy downpour both in that parish and in St. Mark's and St. Patrick's. On this occasion the boulder banks, both at Gouyave and Victoria, were seriously damaged, being altogether demolished in places, and the stone bridge at the mouth of the Gouyave River was nearly entirely destroyed. 1897 was, therefore, the fourth consecutive year in which destructive floods have occurred in the Colony.

Agricultural Society.

24. On 6th October a public meeting, Sir Alfred Moloney presiding, was held in St. George's, and that much needed body, an Agricultural Society, was formed. One or two abortive attempts to float such a society had been made in previous years, and the credit of the present so far successful movement is due to the Honourable D. S. De Freitas, endorsed by the Governor's cordial support and sympathy. There is a large field for good work open to the society in the Colony.

ROADS AND WORKS.

25. The only works of importance commenced in the year were two iron bridges over the rivers at Madeys and Florida, to replace stone structures irretrievably damaged by the flood of 1895. Both bridges have been satisfactorily completed in 1898. The work on the face of the Mabouya Cliff rendered necessary by the great landslip there in November 1895 was completed at a cost of £318, and the main road at its foot thereby rendered fit for traffic. The erection of a sea wall protecting the main road to Gouyave in the same neighbourhood was continued, and extensive repairs to the Jetty at Victoria, which was seriously damaged by high seas in March 1896, were successfully carried out at an outlay of £417, which was advanced from General Revenue pending final adjustment with the Parochial Board.

The reconstruction of the Colony Hospital buildings, commenced in July 1895, was completed at a cost of £3,825, and on the 18th of June the new commodious structure was formally opened by Sir Alfred and Lady Moloney in the presence of a large gathering.

POPULATION.

26. By estimate, based on the natural increase since the Census of 1891, the population of the Colony at the end of 1897 was 61,299, or 8,090 more than at that Census. This estimate takes no account of emigration or immigration, there being no reliable records. Of the former, however, there is little of a permanent nature, and the latter has much decreased since the passing of the measure restricting pauper immigration which will be referred to in the next section.

The birth rate was 38·10, and the death rate, 22·78 per thousand. The average birth rate for the last 10 years is 44·63, so that a distinct decrease is shown in 1897, although, when compared with the 1896 rate (41 per thousand) the drop is not so marked. Since 1891 the birth rate has declined; in that year it reached 46 per thousand. The death rate was up to the average for the last ten years, but showed an increase on the figures of 1896 (19·82 per thousand), which was the lowest on record.

CRIME AND PRISONS.

27. The following analysis of the statistics relating to crime in the last four years shows that the year under review compares favourably with its immediate predecessors :—

——	1897.	Average 1894–96.	Increase.	Decrease.
Magistrates' Courts :—				
Persons brought before the Magistrates	2,628	2,697	—	69
Convictions	1,239	1,300	—	61
Acquittals	453	460	—	7
Discharged	887	896	—	9
Committed for trial in Supreme Court ...	49	41	8	—
Total	2,628	2,697	8	77
Supreme Court :—				
Number of persons tried ...	53	41	12	—
Convictions	36	25	11	—
Acquittals	15	9	6	—
Not prosecuted	2	7	—	5
Total	53	41	17	5

CRIME AND PRISONS—*continued.*

——	1897.	Average 1894–96.	Increase.	Decrease.
Nature of offences for which convictions were obtained :—				
Offences against the person	331	335	—	4
Prædial Larceny	40	47	—	7
Other offences against property	254	272	—	18
Other offences	650	670	—	20
Total	1,275	1,324	—	49

The Attorney-General remarks in his annual report :—" The " statistics do not disclose any marked variation respecting the " commission of any special crime ; they also show that increase " in crime is not keeping pace with the increase in population."

28. A noteworthy feature of the prison returns for 1897 is the marked decrease in the daily average of prisoners while the number of persons committed to prison has not fallen off. The average number of committals in the four years 1893–96 is 300, and the daily average in prison for those years, 76 : in 1897, 301 persons were committed, but the daily average in prison was only 63, to which it has fallen from an average of 84 (the highest on record) in 1894. This result is attributable to the change made in length of sentences by the Supreme Court since 1895. Before that year long sentences were frequently passed by the Chief Justice ; they have now become the exception.

29. Another feature of the returns is the diminishing number of persons convicted who are not natives of the Colony : in 1895, 35 per cent. of the convictions were persons not born in Grenada ; in 1897, the percentage had fallen to 18. This is most probably due to the working of the law regulating the landing of infirm paupers and destitute immigrants which commenced to operate in 1896, and is having a salutary effect in other directions.

30. It is satisfactory to record that, from enquiry which has been made, it appears that at least 14 discharged prisoners are now earning an honest livelihood in the Colony at trades taught to them while in prison. There are probably many others, but they cannot be traced at present.

EDUCATION.

31. The chief statistics relating to education in the Colony in 1897 are presented below in tabular form, and a comparison is made with the similar figures for 1896.

Primary Schools.

Description of Schools.	No. of Schools.	Number of Scholars on the Roll.				Income.			Expenditure.
		Boys.	Girls.	Totals.	Average Attendance.	School Fees.	Government Contributions	Voluntary Contributions.	
						£	£	£	£
Government Schools	9	925	838	1,763	925	108	1,338	Nil.	1,446
Grant in Aid Schools :—									
Anglican	7	771	562	1,333	727	99	892	No returns	991
Roman Catholic	14	1,791	1,822	3,613	1,743	96	1,793	Do.	1,889
Wesleyan	4	382	292	674	437	45	590	Do.	635
Church of Scotland	2	119	83	202	111	6	170	Do.	176
Miscellaneous receipts and disbursements ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	78	Do.	78
Totals for 1897	36	3,988	3,597	7,585	3,943	354	4,861	—	5,215
Do. 1896	37	3,817	3,311	7,128	3,527	341	5,793	—	6,134
Increase in 1897	—	171	286	457	416	13	—	—	—
Decrease in 1897	1	—	—	—	—	—	932	—	919

SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

DESCRIPTION OF SCHOOLS.	NUMBER OF SCHOLARS ON THE ROLL.				INCOME.			EXPENDITURE.
	Boys.	Girls.	Totals.	Average Attendance.	School Fees.	Government Contributions.	Voluntary Contributions.	
					£	£	£	£
Grant in Aid Schools :—								
St. George's Grammar School	38	—	38	34	210	415	25	591
Girls' High School...	—	33	33	30	166	58	—	236
St. Joseph's Convent School	5	54	59	57	90	100	20	86
Totals for 1897	43	87	130	121	466	573	45	913
Do. 1896	48	106	154	134	502	591	38	1,068
Increase in 1897	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—
Decrease in 1897	5	19	24	13	36	18	—	155

32. It will be observed that while an increase took place in the number of scholars on the roll and in average attendance at the primary schools, there was a marked decrease in the expenditure and in the amount of Government grant. In 1896 no less than £5,793 was contributed by the general revenue of the Colony towards primary education, but in November of that year the new Education Code came into operation, and 1897 exhibits the first year's working of that code, which has effected an undoubted improvement not only in this direction but also by raising the standard of education required of the primary schools, and in other respects.

Nearly all of the primary schools in the Colony were visited and inspected by the Governor during the latter half of the year.

HOSPITALS AND ASYLUMS.

33. The principal statistics relating to hospitals and asylums in 1896 and 1897 are given below :—

INSTITUTION.	No. of Admissions.	Daily Average.	Patients discharged.			No. of Deaths.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not Improved.	
Colony Hospital	654	80	414	161	—	55
Yaws Hospital	57	29	56	—	—	—
St. Andrew's Hospital ...	162	12	144	26	—	5
Carriacou Hospital	105	13	58	37	6	4
Total Hospitals ...	978	134	672	224	6	64
Lunatic Asylum	27	104	16	3	—	16
Poor Asylum	25	44	—	6	—	22
Totals	1,030	282	688	233	6	102
Total for 1896 ...	950	273	587	208	6	107

34. The number of admissions and daily average at the Colony Hospital increased in 1897 in consequence of the reconstructed buildings being occupied for the latter half of the year. Of these the House Surgeon reports :—"The internal condition of the building can now be characterised as excellent throughout, and though the bed area has only been increased to 100, the

GRENADA, 1897.

cubic space has been raised to 1,003 feet per patient, an extremely high point indeed." The patients under treatment for Yaws remained in their temporary hospital throughout the year, so that no increase was possible in the number treated : the former Yaws Hospital has been reoccupied in 1898.

35. At the St. Andrew's District Hospital there was a marked increase in the number of patients during the discharge of the Medical Officer's duties by Dr. N. S. Durrant, and 7,484 prescriptions were compounded at the dispensary, as against 5,686 in the preceding year. The accommodation at the Carriacou Hospital was increased by four beds, and the ventilation improved by a rearrangement of the interior partitions decided upon in 1896. 4,714 prescriptions were made up at the dispensary there, as compared with 3,081 in 1896.

36. The death rate at the Lunatic Asylum was the highest recorded since 1881 : of this the Medical Superintendent remarks :—" One half of the number succumbed to diseases of a serious organic nature, and some of the deaths were sudden." From a return prepared by this officer it appears that since 1880, when the Grenada Asylum became the Central Asylum for the Windward Islands, the daily average has increased from 49 to 104, while the percentage of recoveries on the admissions has risen from 34·77 to 59·25. Of the number admitted (27) during the year under review, 10 were from St. Lucia, and 6 from St. Vincent ; and of the 100 patients under treatment at the end of the year, 35 belonged to the former and 15 to the latter Colony. There are still in the Asylum two patients from the Island of Tobago.

SAVINGS BANK.

37. The improved financial conditions which manifested themselves in the Colony in the latter half of the year are evidenced in the transactions of the Savings Bank, as will be seen from the following statement of its work for the last five years :—

Year.	Number of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits.	Amount of Withdrawals.	Balance at credit of Depositors at 31st December.
		£	£	£
1893	716	7,305	6,394	7,994
1894	959	7,307	7,893	7,602
1895	885	5,563	6,666	6,408
1896	895	4,854	5,035	6,391
1897	968	6,301	5,500	7,370

38. The steady growth of the Savings Bank is a satisfactory indication of the progress of the Colony. Ten years ago, in 1888, the number of depositors was 277, and the deposits were of comparatively large amounts, the balance at credit of each depositor at the end of that year averaging £20·33 : in 1897 we find a total of 968 depositors with an average balance of £7·61 each, showing that the peasants are largely availing themselves of the convenience of the Bank. This growth is attributable in a large measure to the policy initiated in 1888 of establishing branches of the Bank in the out-districts of the Colony, as is evidenced by the subjoined return of depositors in the branches and the balances to their credit for each year since 1889 when they were first opened.

Year.	No. of Depositors.	Balances to Credit.
		£
1889	81	292
1890	136	814
1891	175	1,086
1892	196	1,483
1893	280	2,030
1894	279	2,379
1895	243	1,888
1896	268	2,038
1897	317	2,434

In 1897 a new branch was established in the parish of St. David's, and £111 were deposited therein during the year by 13 depositors.

LEGISLATION.

39. As the revision of the laws of the Colony undertaken in 1895 by Sir Joseph Hutchinson, Chief Justice, reached its final stage in 1897, there was much consolidating legislation passed in the year, no less than 35 Ordinances being enacted, among the most important of which were an Evidence Code, a Criminal Code, and a Code of Criminal Procedure. The new edition of the laws was brought into operation on the 20th of January, 1898.

GRENADA, 1897.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

40. The general financial position of the several town authorities at the close of the year was as follows :—

Town.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Surplus Assets.	Deficit.	Loan Debt.	Sinking Fund paid up.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
St. George's	3,049	3,021	603	—	6,981	288
Grenville ...	919	829	—	2,755	13,270	19
Sauteurs ...	463	412	—	25	1,100	330
Victoria ...	270	260	10	—	1,424*	69
Gouyave ...	557	604	—	341	3,304†	131
Hillsborough	132	125	46	—	600	23
Totals ...	5,390	5,251	659	3,121	26,679	860

41. While the position of some of the smaller towns is unsatisfactory, it is gratifying to note the great improvement which has been effected in St. George's by the semi-elective Board established there in 1895 in place of the former wholly elected body, which had proved a complete failure. The heavy current liabilities of the old Board have been wiped off, the finances placed on a satisfactory footing, and much good work on town improvements done. It is an interesting feature of the success of this Board, which deserves to be noticed, that while it retains full control over its finances, its officers have no direct connection with the collection and disbursement of its revenue ; all details connected with cash and accounts being conducted on its behalf by Government Departments and under the scrutiny of the Colonial Auditor. Under the old system, to quote one instance of the great improvement which has resulted, the collection of arrears of rates was rarely enforced, the dishonest ratepayer being thus maintained at the expense of his neighbour who elected to pay his rates : under the new, no less than £334 of unpaid rates were collected in 1897 out of a total of £341 overdue.

* Besides an advance of £417 for Jetty repairs.

† Not including £270 due to Government for purchase of Old Court House.

Official Changes.

42. Governor Sir Charles Bruce left the Colony on the 22nd January to assume the Government of Mauritius, and his successor, Sir Alfred Moloney, assumed the Government on the 2nd of June. In the interval, with two short breaks in which the Windward Islands Government was administered by the Colonial Secretary of Grenada, Mr. H. L. Thompson, Administrator of St. Vincent, administered the General Government, his place at St. Vincent being taken by Mr. Edward Drayton, Colonial Secretary of Grenada.

43. During Mr. Drayton's absence for seven months on this duty, Mr. Leslie Probyn, Attorney-General, acted as Colonial Secretary in addition to the duties of his substantive office.

44. Sir Joseph Hutchinson, Chief Justice, was absent in England on duty connected with the consolidation of the laws for ten months, his place being filled by Mr. W. S. Comissiong, Q.C., who was again appointed to act upon Sir Joseph's final departure from the Colony on 10th December to assume the duties of Chief Justice of Cyprus, to which he was transferred.

45. Mr. C. H. Collymore, Registrar of the Supreme Court, a hard-working and reliable public officer, died on 17th June, but the vacancy was not filled up during the year. Mr. H. A. Martin, Treasury Accountant, and Mr. H. B. Walcott, Audit Clerk, were promoted to offices in Ceylon and British Honduras, respectively.

General Remarks.

46. The Colony was visited in February by the West India Royal Commissioners, and in their report, which was presented to Her Majesty in August, Grenada was classed with Jamaica and Trinidad as the islands which were found by them to be in the best position among the British West India Colonies, and they further reported that "with careful administration we see no ground for special apprehension regarding the future" of the Colony.

47. Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee was celebrated with enthusiastic loyalty throughout the Colony in June, two special holidays being granted, and an address from the Legislative Council, on behalf of the colonists, was presented to the Queen.

48. As will be gathered from the record of the year which has been set forth in the foregoing pages, the affairs of the Colony in 1897 began to show an improvement on the conditions which

GRENADA, 1897.

have obtained since 1895. There is evidence that the period of stress through which the agriculturists have passed has had a beneficial effect in the direction of enforcing economies and improving cultivation, while a distinct effort has been made by the smaller proprietors to free themselves from the burden of their mortgage debts by more punctual payments. The practical cessation of expenditure by the Government from loan funds has, of course, been keenly felt, but it cannot fail to lead to more attention being given to cultivation of the soil by the labouring class, whose efforts in this direction will no longer be distracted by an abnormal expenditure on road work.

EDWARD DRAYTON,

Colonial Secretary.

Grenada,
7th September, 1898.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 242.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 207.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

October 1898.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 1-3, Great St. Thomas Apostle, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.; and
32, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, Hanover Street, Edinburgh, and
90, West Nile Street, Glasgow; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., Limited, 104, Grafton Street, Dublin.

1898.

[C.—9046–10.] *Price* ½*d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
213	St. Helena	1896
214	Seychelles	,,
215	Mauritius	,,
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1897
217	Fiji	1896
218	Ceylon	,,
219	Lagos	,,
220	Gold Coast	,,
221	Labuan	,,
222	British Guiana	1896–97
223	Rodrigues	1896
224	Basutoland	1896–97
225	Jamaica	,,
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
227	Leeward Islands	1896
228	Bermuda	1897
229	Gambia	,,
230	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
231	Barbados	,,
232	Lagos	,,
233	St. Vincent	,,
234	Sierra Leone	,,
235	Falkland Islands	,,
236	Straits Settlements	,,
237	British New Guinea	1896–97
238	Bahamas	1897
239	St. Lucia	,,
240	St. Helena	,,
241	Trinidad and Tobago	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 242.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 207.)

ACTING-GOVERNOR NEWTON to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Belize,
22nd August, 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the Blue Book for 1897, together with the Report thereon by Mr. W. J. McKinney, C.M.G., the Acting Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,

F. J. NEWTON,
Administering the Government.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF BRITISH HONDURAS FOR THE YEAR 1897.

TAXES, DUTIES, &C.

As stated in the Report for 1896 the import duty on beef, pork, and flour was reimposed in 1897—beef and pork at $1 per barrel and flour at 50 cents per barrel—and the export duty on logwood was abolished. The duty on still wines was fixed at the uniform rate of 50 cents per gallon, instead of claret wine at 50 cents and other still wines at $1 per gallon.

604*—75—9/98 Wt 21620 D & S—5 (B)

BRITISH HONDURAS. 1897.

General Revenue and Expenditure.

The total ordinary revenue amounted to $292,454.06, being $9,543.87 in excess of that of 1896. In addition to the ordinary revenue a sum of $20,000 was received in silver coins from the Mint and a sum of $1,663.61 as casual revenue (vacant estates).

The principal items of revenue were—

	$
Customs	166,618.56
Light and wharf dues	8,544.35
Internal taxation	67,942.42
Revenues of Government property	15,377.22
Court fines, fees of office, &c....	17,921.00

The total ordinary expenditure amounted to $294,791.63, the excess over 1896 being $35,670.34. The expenditure included—

	$
Constabulary	43,617.93
Police	24,569.59
Naval and military	15,228.14
Public health and hospitals ...	26,281.63

In addition to the ordinary expenditure there was an extraordinary expenditure of $28,198.78 made up as follows :—

	$
Public works	10,707.25
Completion of railway survey	3,385.16
Telegraph survey	729.69
Cost of bullion for coinage	9,766.81
Belize Town and Harbour improvements	3,609.87

The revenue and expenditure of the several District Boards were as follows :—

District.	Revenue.		Expenditure.	
	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.
	$	$	$	$
Belize	23,088.29	22,901.70	22,335.82	22.534.50
Corosal	2,717.70	3,657.09	4,482.10	3,636.02
Orange Walk ...	3,199.68	3,492.25	2,568.98	3,340.34
Stann Creek ...	1,276.79	2,173.17	1,712.99	1,735.33
Toledo	739.22	699.33	698.55	910.83
Cayo	754.25	752.75	388.42	679.45

LEGISLATION.

Forty-five ordinances were passed during the year, twenty-two of which were amending ordinances and eight appropriation ordinances.

No. 32 provides for the licensing of certain trades and businesses in Belize, and No. 38 for the constitution of a volunteer force.

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

Governor Sir A. Moloney, K.C.M.G., left the Colony in January on promotion to the Government of the Windward Islands, and Colonel D. Wilson, C.M.G., arrived in the Colony in February and assumed the Government.

EDUCATION.

The number of schools in operation receiving Government aid was 49, as compared with 46 in 1896 and 51 in 1895. Total number on the rolls 3,683 as against 3,567 in 1896; the average daily attendance was 2,705 as compared with 2,592 in 1896. The total Government expenditure on aided schools amounted to $14,416.76.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The total value of the imports in 1897 was $1,422,097.00 as compared with $1,462,637 in 1896. From the United Kingdom, 1897, $486,463 as against $523,208 in 1896. From the United States $761,768 as compared with $790,458 in 1896.

The total value of the exports was $1,404,387 against $1,571,530 in 1896. Exports to the United Kingdom $769,867, and in 1896 $760,522. To the United States $238,187 against $312,997 in 1896.

The exports included—

6,777,382 feet of mahogany.
29,682 tons of logwood.
356,852 bunches of bananas.
1,824,522 coconuts.

BRITISH HONDURAS. 1897.

SHIPPING.

The following tables give the number and tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in 1897 as compared with 1896 :—

Entered.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1896	391	35.882	185	132,317
1897	428	35,571	213	158,213

Cleared.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1896	378	38,628	184	132,239
1897	421	38,258	213	158,081

POST OFFICE.

During the year the Post Office, which previously formed part of the Treasury, was created a separate Department with a Postmaster at $1,500 per annum.

The total revenue for 1897 was $6,575.54 as compared with $6,492.15 in 1896, and the total expenditure, including $6,000 for conveyance of mails within the Colony and $14,124.96 for conveyance of mails beyond the Colony, amounted to $22,387.12.

The total number of articles dealt with to and from abroad was 239,878, and inland 58,502.

The money order transactions were as follows :—

Issued in Colony.	Paid in Colony.	——
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
1,043 15 4	331 1 0	United Kingdom.
226 18 4	23 5 10	Jamaica.
25 13 8	4 8 4	Barbados.
3 2 6	... ...	British Guiana.

Early in the year the agreement for a weekly mail service between Belize and New Orleans was renewed for a further period of 5 years at an annual subsidy of $14,500.

W. J. McKINNEY,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

19th August 1898.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 245.

HONG KONG.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 210).

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

October 1898.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 1-3, Great St. Thomas Apostle, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.; and
32, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, Hanover Street, Edinburgh, and
90, West Nile Street, Glasgow; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., Limited, 104, Grafton Street, Dublin.

1898.

[C.—9046-13.] *Price* ½*d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
219	Lagos	1896
220	Gold Coast	,,
221	Labuan	,,
222	British Guiana	1896–97
223	Rodrigues	1896
224	Basutoland	1896–97
225	Jamaica	,,
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
227	Leeward Islands	1896
228	Bermuda	1897
229	Gambia	,,
230	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
231	Barbados...	,,
232	Lagos	,,
233	St. Vincent	,,
234	Sierra Leone	,,
235	Falkland Islands	,,
236	Straits Settlements	,,
237	British New Guinea	1896–97
238	Bahamas	1897
239	St. Lucia...	,,
240	St. Helena	,,
241	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
242	British Honduras	,,
243	Malta	,,
244	Fiji	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 245.

HONG KONG.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 210.)

ACTING GOVERNOR BLACK to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Hong Kong,
31st August 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward to you the Blue Book for 1897, together with the subjoined report on that year.

FINANCES.

The revenue collected during the year amounted to $2,686,914.70, as against $2,609,878.94 collected in the preceding year, and as against $1,427,485.79 collected in the year 1887: this shows an increase of revenue during the last ten years of $1,259,428.91 (or approximating to 100 per cent.), whilst the population, during the same period, has only increased by 35,759 or 16·79 per cent.

The receipts from land sales during the year show a decrease of $46,358.40, but this is necessarily an uncertain and, in a sense, a speculative source of revenue during any fixed period; the receipts on other more settled accounts are more satisfactory.

Under the more reliable items of revenue the following most substantial increases are shown as compared with the year 1896:—

	$
Assessed Taxes	26,924.21
Stamps	36,699.20
Official Signatures	13,895.11
Queen's College Fees	3,512.00
Sunday Cargo-Working Permits ...	4,275.00
Postage	23,336.15
Leased Lands	24,516.31
Interest	4,576.84
Profit on Coins	4,819.71
Water Account	21,207.41

704*—75—10/98 Wt 21620 D & S—5 (B)

There are no very noticeable decreases to be set against the above-mentioned increases except that of $31,683.68 under the heading "Fines," which Sir W. Robinson characterised as an unsatisfactory source of revenue; of $3,558.45 on account of Junk Licences, which is probably explained by lower freights on river steamers; of $5,469.62 under "Other Miscellaneous Receipts"—an ever-varying source of revenue; and the decrease of $46,358.40 on premia from land sales mentioned above.

The net result of a comparison with the year 1896 shows an increase of revenue amounting to $77,035.76 during the year 1897.

EXPENDITURE.

The total expenditure during 1897 was $2,641,409.71, a net increase of $166,499.34 as compared with the expenditure of 1896.

The most noticeable increases on the expenditure side were :—

	$
Public Debt	30,337.03
Pensions	22,769.51
Public Works Department ...	3,862.82
Post Office	18,799.12
Lighthouses	2,721.90
Medical Department	5,215.61
Transport	4,458.46
Miscellaneous Services	67,946.03
Public Works Recurrent	20,982.54
Public Works Extraordinary ...	58,205.40

The amount expended on Public Works Extraordinary chargeable to the Loan amounted to $321,705.89, as against $230,619.32 in 1896, and $186,970.87 in 1895.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The Statement of Assets and Liabilities shows a debit balance on the 31st December, 1897, amounting to $264,649.87, of which $262,091.95 were loan monies.

Against this apparent deficit, however, the Colony had a prospective asset of $350,000 worth of coins which were paid for before the 31st December, but were not yet in transit on that date.

It should also be mentioned that the expenditure for the year 1897 included a sum of $116,000 on account of Her Majesty's Jubilee Celebration.

LOAN.

The Balance Sheet of the Loan Account showed at the end of the year a debit balance amounting to £336,625 0*s.* 9*d.*

MILITARY ACCOUNT.

The amount in sterling contributed by the Colonial Government during 1897 in aid of Military Expenditure was £42,993 12*s.* 3*d.* as against an expenditure of £162,588.

LEGISLATION.

The most important Ordinances passed during the year were—

(1) An Ordinance to declare and amend the Law of Partnership.

(2) An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to the Construction of Ordinances, to further shorten the Language used in Ordinances, and for other like purposes.

These Ordinances assimilate the law of the Colony to that prevailing in England.

There was also an Ordinance passed to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to Probates and Letters of Administration in this Colony.

POPULATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

The population in 1887 numbered 212,951, as against an estimated population in the latter part of 1897 numbering 248,710, including members of the Army and Navy to the average number of 5,118. The European civil population during the year was estimated at 8,555.

The total number of deaths registered was 4,668 as compared with 5,860 during 1896, but in the latter year there were no fewer than 1,078 deaths from Bubonic Plague ; deducting deaths from that disease, however, there has been a material reduction in the death-rate, which for 1897 stands at 18·85 per 1,000 as compared with an average of 23 per 1,000 during the previous five years (exclusive of 1894, the year of the great epidemic of Bubonic Plague).

The above statistics show an improvement in the state of the public health, which may be regarded as satisfactory ; notwithstanding the fact that 293 cases of small-pox and 65 cases of enteric fever were reported during the year, the latter being chiefly confined to Europeans and the origin traceable to the milk supply.

It is only natural that a port like Hong Kong should be largely exposed, through the shipping, to epidemics of an infectious nature, and it is probably an indication of the adequacy of the Quarantine Regulations that such epidemics are not more frequent.

It is satisfactory to note that only 21 cases of Bubonic Plague were reported during the year.

CLIMATE.

As bearing on the above, the following particulars regarding the climate during the year under review may prove of interest.

The average monthly temperature was 71·7° F., as compared with 72° F. during 1896. The maximum monthly temperature was attained in July when it reached 82·1° F., as compared with a maximum monthly temperature in the same month of the previous year 88·1° F.; the minimum monthly temperature was recorded in February, as in 1896, being 54·2° F., as compared with 53·1° F. The highest recorded temperature was 91·8° F. in the month of September, and the lowest was 41° F. in the month of February.

The total rainfall for the year was 100·03 inches, as compared with 71·78 inches during 1896, the wettest months being August with 25·55 inches and June with 23·355 inches, whilst the driest months were December with 0·48 inch and March with 0·815 inch of rain. No rainfall was recorded on 193 days of the year, as compared with 208 days during the previous year. The largest rainfall for the 24 hours during the year was 6·03 inches on the 28th June. The relative humidity of the atmosphere throughout the year was, approximately, 80 per cent. The average daily amount of sunshine was 4·78 as compared with 4·8 hours in 1896. On 71 days only no sunshine was recorded.

SHIPPING AND TRADE.

The shipping returns for the year are not quite so satisfactory as might be expected. The total tonnage entering and clearing amounted to 15,938,174, being a decrease of 577,779 tons as compared with the year 1896. British shipping shows an increase of 329 ships and a decrease of 489,528 tons. This numerical increase, with a tonnage decrease, is attributed to the number of small vessels which, since the opening of the West River in June last, have been plying on that route and increasing the number of entries and clearances without a proportionate increase of tonnage, whilst British ocean-going steamers show a decrease of 201 entries, aggregating 275,360 tons, the chief causes of which are attributable to the continued failure of the rice crop and the deflection of the Siamese rice trade owing to the plague and famine in India.

Foreign shipping, on the other hand, shows an increase of 263 ships, and of tonnage aggregating 280,731 tons, the shipping under the Japanese flag having been more than doubled since 1896, and showing an increase of 153,343 tons. German shipping, on the other hand, shows a decrease of 41,000 tons. Shipping under other foreign flags shows a more or less substantial increase, but there has been an appreciable falling off of vessels classified as "Junks in Foreign Trade" and "Junks in Local

Trade" which is attributable, *inter alia*, to the failure of the rice crop and to the increased river steamer traffic.

TRADE.

The trade of 1897 was on the whole unsatisfactory from a local point of view, and more especially in imports, which were adversely affected by the low rate of exchange and the scarcity of the circulating medium—factors which not only restricted business but greatly curtailed profits.

In cotton piece goods business opened dull, but improved; during the summer a healthier tone prevailed, transactions being above the average of recent years, due possibly to some stimulus derived from the opening of the West River in June, but later in the year an adverse exchange restricted demand, while at the close business came to a standstill owing to the extreme tightness of money. The result was a falling off in the volume of business as compared with 1896, and this was even more marked in the case of fancy and woollen goods.

The trade in English cotton yarns compared favourably with that of the preceding year, and is reported to have been profitable to dealers, but the margin of profit to importers was slender.

Compared with the business transacted in 1896, the trade in Indian yarns must be pronounced as unfavourable. The prevalence of plague in Bombay, the prohibition of import into Tonkin during three months of the year, the violent fluctuation in rupee exchange, and the serious fall in the dollar prices of yarn during the final quarter of 1897 combined to check the import of the Indian product and promote that of its Japanese rival.

In metals and sundries a fair business was transacted although not very profitably to importers, the fluctuations of exchange and tightness of money serving to handicap operations.

Although the import of foreign opium showed a slight increase over that of 1896, the trade in this commodity proved generally very unprofitable, chiefly on account of the unfavourable exchange between India and China. The native drug, owing to the high rates asked for the Indian product, is gradually but steadily replacing the latter in the Chinese markets.

The volume of the import of flour in 1897 was somewhat less than in the previous year (3,312,116 quarter sacks, as against 3,831,499 quarter sacks in 1896) consequent on the higher rates prevailing, but the trade was profitable to importers, who for the most part had bought forward at prices much lower than those ruling on delivery.

The trade in kerosine oil continues to show a steady increase, the import both in case and in bulk comparing favourably with that for 1896.

HONG KONG. 1897.

A considerable development was apparent in the coal trade in 1897, the import of between 700,000 and 800,000 tons being larger than in any preceding year. Prices rose steadily throughout the year and have continued appreciating during the current year.

Since the opening of the West River to foreign trade on the 3rd June last, regular communication has been established, and it is hoped that this new outlet will, in course of time, prove of considerable advantage to the commercial interests of the Colony.

PUBLIC PEACE AND GOOD ORDER.

The criminal statistics for the year may be regarded as satisfactory, although they do not compare favourably with those for 1896. Owing to the diminished population during that year on account of the plague epidemic, a comparison with 1895 is a more reliable indication of improvement in this direction.

The total number of cases reported to the police in 1895 was 13,376, and in 1897, 9,629. In the former year, however, 10,608 were of a minor nature, leaving 2,767 serious cases as against 2,896 serious cases in 1897. Whilst, therefore, the year 1897 compares more than favourably with 1895 as regard minor offences, it shows an increase of 129 cases of more serious crimes.

CONCLUSION.

There is but little to add to the particulars given above regarding the year 1897, which was of an exceptionally uneventful nature. In his previous despatches Sir W. Robinson has so fully reviewed the general progress of the Colony during his tenure of office—financially, commercially, and socially—that I have been content to limit this despatch within the somewhat narrow limits of statistics. I may remark, however, that during my term of office here as General Officer Commanding my observation has convinced me of the Colony's present prosperity and future possibilities.

I have, &c.,

W. BLACK, *Major-General,*
Administering the Government.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No 261.

JAMAICA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897-8.

(For Report for 1896–7, *see* No. 225.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

June, 1899.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 1-3, Great St. Thomas Apostle, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C., and
32, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, Hanover Street, Edinburgh, and
90, West Nile Street, Glasgow; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., Limited, 104, Grafton Street, Dublin

1899.

[C.—9046.-29] *Price* 3*d*.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
230	Turks and Caicos Islands	1897
231	Barbados	"
232	Lagos	"
233	St. Vincent	"
234	Sierra Leone	"
235	Falkland Islands	"
236	Straits Settlements	"
237	British New Guinea	1896–97
238	Bahamas...	1897
239	St. Lucia...	"
240	St. Helena	"
241	Trinidad and Tobago	"
242	British Honduras	"
243	Malta	"
244	Fiji	"
245	Hong Kong	"
246	Leeward Islands	"
247	Grenada	"
248	Gibraltar	"
249	Gold Coast	"
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues	"
251	Solomon Islands	1897–98
252	Seychelles	1897
253	Labuan	"
254	Ceylon	"
255	Basutoland	1897–98
256	Newfoundland	1896–97
257	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1898
258	British New Guinea	1897–98
259	Bermuda	1898
260	Niger.—West African Frontier Force ...	1897–98

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 261.

JAMAICA.

JAMAICA. 1897–8.

(For Report for 1896–7 *see* No. 225.)

GOVERNOR SIR A. W. L. HEMMING to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

King's House,
Jamaica,
27th January, 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith my Report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1897–98.

I have, &c.,
AUGUSTUS W. L. HEMMING,
Governor.

BLUE BOOK REPORT, 1897–98.

LEGISLATION.

During the Session of 1898 the Legislative Council passed 41 laws, of which the following are the more important :—

Law 5 of 1898—The Obeah Law.—This law consolidates and simplifies the laws relating to Obeah, and provides for the suppression of Obeah literature.

Law 11 of 1898—The Stamp Duty Law, 1868.—This law reduces the stamp duty on marine policies, increases the rate of probate duty from two to three per cent., and requires agreements for leases to be stamped with the same duty as leases.

Law 13 of 1898,—The Jury Law, 1898—consolidates the laws relating to juries and makes certain amendments of the system.

Law 14 of 1898 repeals the schedule of duties to the Legacy Duty Law of 1879, and substitutes a schedule of reduced rates.

Law 15 of 1898.—The Kingston General Commissioners Extended Powers Law, the object of which is to give the Commissioners, in whom are vested the power and duties of the Kingston and Liguanea Water Works Commissioners, extended

2006*—75—2/99 Wt 21935 D & S—5 (B)

powers for the purpose of protecting from defilement the various sources of water supply for Kingston and the plains of St. Andrew.

Law 16 of 1898—The Direct West India Cable Company's Law, 1898.—This law gives legal effect to the arrangements made by the Direct West India Cable Company to extend their cable to Jamaica.

Law 17 of 1898.—This law amends and incorporates the Marine Board Laws of 1896 and 1897.

Law 18 of 1898.—The Adulteration of Food and Drugs Law.

Law 20 of 1898.—The Succession Duty Law, 1898, which imposes certain duties on succession to property.

Law 28 of 1898.—The Tariff Law.

Law 29 of 1898, which enables the Governor to raise, on behalf of the Kingston General Commissioners, a loan for the purpose of improving the supply of water to Kingston and the Liguanea Plains.

Law 34 of 1898.—The Cayman Islands Commissioners Law, which gives the Governor power to appoint a Resident Commissioner for those Islands.

Law 36 of 1898—The Resident Magistrates Amendment Law. —This law incorporates the Resident Magistrates Law of 1887, removes the inelastic provisions of the 1887 Law, which confines the jurisdiction of each resident magistrate within the boundaries of a particular parish.

Law 38 of 1898.—The West India Electric Company's Law, 1897, Amendment Law, 1898.

Law 40 of 1898, which gives the Governor power to raise by loan a sum not exceeding £100,000 to meet the liabilities of the Government.

FINANCE.

The revenue collected during the year amounted to £540,509, while the expenditure amounted to £627,422, thus showing on the year a deficit of £86,913. Compared with the previous year, general revenue shows a net decrease of £51,355, and general expenditure a net decrease of £36,800.

Parochial revenues, which are devoted to parochial roads, poor relief, sanitary and other local services, and are administered by the several Parochial Boards, produced £113,527, a decrease of £3,247 as compared with the previous year. This does not, however, include advances made from general revenue in aid of these funds, which amounted to £18,440.

Parochial expenditure during the same period amounted to £126,712, or £9,130 less than in the previous year, the repayment of advances from general revenue, which amounted to £11,814, not being taken into account.

Immigration revenues during the year amounted to £4,529, an increase of £2,848, and expenditure to £403, a decrease of £576 on the previous year.

The following is a statement shewing the whole revenue realised in the year under review compared with the previous year :—

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF REVENUE, 1897-98.

General Revenue.	1897-98.	1896-97.	Increase.	Decrease.
TAX REVENUE	£	£	£	£
Import Duties	278,268	318,251	—	39,983
Harbour Masters' Fees ...	2,563	2,577	—	14
Light Dues	1,920	1,952	—	32
Rum Duties	104,730	122,524	—	17,794
Beer Duty	231	211	20	—
Licenses	627	732	—	105
Stamps	18,050	23,947	—	5,897
Education Tax	9,722	11,243	—	1,521
	416,111	481,437	20	65,346
				65,326
NON-TAX REVENUE.				
Postal Revenue	22,520	24,072	—	1,552
Telegraph Revenue... ...	4,700	5,364	—	664
Court Fees	7,368	8,284	—	916
Fines and Forfeitures ...	3,680	4,412	—	732
Interest on Securities for Sinking Funds.	—	14,199	—	14,199
Interest from Savings Bank	4,784	3,927	857	—
Interest other than above ...	5,902	4,973	929	—
Interest on Railway Second Mortgage Bonds.	—	208	—	208
Reimbursements	52,568	35,969	16,599	—
Miscellaneous	22,934	9,019	13,915	—
	124,456	110,427	32,300	18,271
			14,029	
TOTAL—GENERAL REVENUE	540,567	591,864		51,297

Comparative Statement of Revenue, 1897-98—*cont.*

Specially Appropriated Revenue.	1897-98.	1896-97.	Increase.	Decrease.
MAIN ROAD REVENUE.	£	£	£	£
Land Tax Law 17 of 1890 ...	—	398	—	—
Draft Horned Stock do.	—	826	—	—
Holdings Tax	—	12,898	—	—
Spirit Licenses	—	13,969	—	—
Agricultural Produce Licenses.	—	3,685	—	—
PAROCHIAL ROAD RESERVED FUND.				
Land Tax and Quit Rent ...	—	7,637	—	—
KINGSTON STREETS IMPROVEMENT.				
House Tax Laws 4 of 1883 and 31 of 1890.	—	6	—	—
Spirit Licenses	—	3,728	—	—
Other Receipts	—	620	—	—
	—	43,767	—	—
Reimbursements of Loan Expenditure.	—	3,605	—	3,605
PAROCHIAL REVENUES.				
Parochial Road Tax ...	35,863	37,901	—	2,038
Parochial Municipal Revenue	12,789	13,271	—	482
Parochial General Purposes	4,539	4,503	36	—
Poor Rates	38,723	39,339	—	616
Sanitary Rates	7,630	7,862	—	232
Fire Rates	1,494	1,561	—	67
Gas Rates	3,270	3,793	—	523
Miscellaneous	9,219	8,544	675	—
Advances from General Revenues.	18,440	21,122	—	2,682
	131,967	137,896	711	6,640
				5,929

Comparative Statement of Revenue, 1897-98—*cont.*

Specially Appropriated Revenue.	1897-98.	1896-97.	Increase.	Decrease.
IMMIGRATION REVENUES.	£	£	£	£
Immigration Revenues Law 7 of 1878.	3,402	1,476	1,926	—
Miscellaneous	1,127	205	922	—
	4,529	1,681	2,848	—
SUMMARY.				
General Revenue	540,567	591,864	—	51,297
Specially appropriated Revenue.	—	43,767	—	43,767
Reimbursement of Loan Expenditure.	—	3,605	—	3,605
Parochial Revenues... ...	131,967	137,896	—	5,929
Immigration Revenues ...	4,529	1,681	2,848	—
	677,063	778,813	2,848	104,598
Net Decrease	—	—	—	101,750

The large net decrease in General Revenue of £51,297 as compared with the previous year is almost entirely due to the falling off in the Imports and Rum Duties, caused by the depression in business to which allusion is made elsewhere in this report, and to the reduction of Stamp Duties under Law 27 of 1896. The only items showing increases of any importance are Reimbursements and Miscellaneous, which respectively showed £16,599 and £13,915 more than in 1896-97.

The revenue for Parochial purposes, which varies according to the rates imposed, shows very little change, there being slight increases under General Purposes Rate and Miscellaneous, and slight decreases under the other items.

JAMAICA 1897–8.

The following is a comparative statement of the expenditure during the year under review :—

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE, 1897–98.

General Expenditure.	1897–98.	1896–97.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Charges of Debt	112,650	82,417	30,233	—
Pensions	21,569	16,962	4,607	—
Administrative Departments	43,190	45,085	—	1,895
Government Savings Bank	3,462	3,275	187	—
Revenue Department ...	39,368	41,066	—	1,698
Postal Service	27,347	28,355	—	1,008
Telegraph Service	7,610	7,555	45	—
Judicial	45,763	45,478	285	—
Ecclesiastical...	2,561	2,927	—	366
Medical	61,092	59,307	1,785	—
Constabulary	62,411	57,122	5,289	—
Grant to Constabulary Pension Fund.	—	3,767	—	3,767
Prisons	22,876	23,288	—	402
Reformatories	4,346	4,548	—	202
Education	69,388	67,540	1,848	—
Industrial Schools	1,244	1,103	141	—
Harbours and Pilotage ...	2,320	2,742	—	422
Military	10,447	12,814	—	2,367
Coasting Service	1,708	1,800	—	92
Telegraph Subsidy	2,000	2,000	—	—
Registration Department ...	4,491	4,432	59	—
Registration of Titles Department.	1,071	1,203	—	132
Island Record Office... ...	1,566	1,410	156	—
Government Printing Office	7,756	7,989	—	233

Comparative Statement of Expenditure, 1897-98—*cont.*

General Expenditure.	1897-98.	1896-97	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Jamaica Institute	1,979	2,404	—	425
Board of Supervision ...	502	431	71	—
Public Gardens	6,329	6,484	—	155
Railway	1,310	1,587	—	277
Miscellaneous	10,277	10,982	—	705
Public Works	43,396	78,515	—	35,119
Railway Extension Track ...	3,100	1,595	1,505	—
Light Houses	1,599	1,719	—	120
Do. Construction ...	321	233	88	—
Contribution to maintenance, Kingston Improvement Works.	—	425	—	425
Queen's Jubilee Celebrations	2,556	—	2,556	—
Cattle Disease Enquiry ...	—	1,072	—	1,072
	627,605	629,632	48,855	50,882
				2,027
SPECIAL APPROPRIATION.				
Main Road Expenditure Law 17 of 1890, Maintenance.	—	31,127	—	—
Parochial Road Reserved Fund.	—	7,921	—	—
Kingston Streets Reconstruction.	—	2,421	—	—
Produce Protection Fund ...	—	53	—	—
	—	41,522	—	41,522
EXPENDITURE FROM LOANS.				
Portland Bridges	—	4,144	—	—
Public Tanks	—	292	—	—
Main Roads Law 17 of 1890	—	3,689	—	—
	—	8,125	—	8,125

Comparative Statement of Expenditure, 1897-98—*cont.*

General Expenditure.	1897-98.	1896-97.	Increase.	Decrease.
PAROCHIAL EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£	£
Parochial Roads	45,067	52,818	—	7,751
Parochial Municipal Objects	8,488	10,022	—	1,534
Parochial General Purposes	8,920	7,860	1,060	—
Relief of Poor	47,628	46,898	730	—
Sanitary Appropriation ...	11,232	9,491	1,741	—
Fire Appropriation	1,658	1,647	11	—
Gas Appropriation	3,019	3,048	—	29
Kingston Theatre	700	4,058	—	3,358
Repayment of Advances ...	11,814	17,104	—	5,290
	138,526	152,946	3,542	17,962
				14,420
Immigration Expenditure ...	403	979	—	576
SUMMARY.				
General Expenditure ...	627,605	629,632	—	2,027
Special Appropriation ...	—	41,522	—	41,522
Loan Expenditure	—	8,125	—	8,125
Parochial Expenditure ...	138,526	152,946	—	14,420
Immigration Expenditure ...	403	979	—	576
	766,534	833,204	—	—
Net Decrease	—	—	—	66,670

The net decrease in the General Expenditure was £2,027. The more important increases are to be found under the following heads, viz :—

Charges of Debt £30,233, due to the inclusion of the amount required for Sinking Fund, for interest on temporary advances, and interest on Law 27 of 1890, with increased interest by Laws 20 of 1892, 6 of 1893, and 13 of 1895, that cause an excess of £37,500 which is, however, reduced by paying off of the debt due under Law 39 of 1869, &c.; Pensions £4,607, due to grant to

Constabulary Pension Fund being charged to this account (Law 21 of 1895); Constabulary £5,289, due to clothing, arms, &c., provided for increased number of men, and to the transport of men and prisoners consequent on the closing of certain prisons; Medical, £1,785; Education, £1,848; Railway Track, £1,505, due to settlement of more claims for land acquired than in the previous year; and £2,556, the cost of the Queen's Jubilee celebrations.

PENSIONS.

During the year pensions amounting to £736 11*s.* 9½*d.* were granted under the provisions of Law 34 of 1885 and the resolution of the Legislative Council dated 23rd October 1887, while the Pension List was relieved by the death of pensioners to the extent of £1,176.

DEBT.

No new loans were raised during the year under review.

The Public Debt directly secured on General Revenue stood as follows at the close of each of the last ten years, after making allowance in each year for the Sinking Funds actually invested for the eventual redemption of debt:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1888	1,502,684	9	8
1889	1,506,883	6	0
1891	1,458,221	12	7
1892	1,520,088	4	3
1893	1,523,944	2	11
1894	1,672,299	14	6
1895	1,678,744	11	2
1896	1,666,177	14	3
1897	1,787,499	18	7
1898	1,993,284	4	10

The above amount was raised at varying rates of interest, and the balance at present outstanding is held—

£	
118,168	... at six per cent.
7,500	... at four and a half per cent.
1,553,056	... at four per cent.
30,860	... at three and a half per cent.
283,700	... at three per cent.
£1,993,284	

JAMAICA. 1897–8.

A considerable portion of the amounts originally raised by debentures has since been converted into Inscribed Stock under the provisions of Law 13 of 1885, but the present liability is divided as follows :—

	£
Debentures	635,297
Inscribed Stock, England ...	1,116,459
Inscribed Stock, Jamaica ...	123,360
Deposits, Rectors and Island Curates Fund, and Widows and Orphans Fund	118,168
	£1,993,284

The debenture debt is mainly redeemable by a one per cent. Sinking Fund, which is applied to the redemption of debentures chosen by lot at annual drawings, and the Inscribed Stock, both English and Jamaica, is to be redeemed by a cumulative Sinking Fund of one per cent. on the total amount issued, which is calculated to produce sufficient to redeem the stock at its maturity in the year 1930.

Of the total of debt on the 31st March 1898, £742,920 was on account of the purchase, reconstruction, and extension of the Jamaica Railway to Ewarton and Porus, £126,500 on account of the Rio Cobre Canal, £217,000 for the erection of new bridges, and £48,700 for debentures issued on account of the Myrtle Bank and Constant Spring Hotels, which have now been taken possession of by the Government.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The annual session of the Council commenced on the 15th March 1898 ; it continued far beyond the close of the year under review, and adjourned *sine die* on the 3rd August 1898.

During that period the Council held 33 meetings.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The total expenditure of the Public Works Department was £138,074 6*s.* 4*d.*, being £26,262 15*s.* less than in the preceding year. The cost of administration and supervision was equal to $12\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. of the total expenditure of the Department.

The total expenditure on main roads and bridges chargeable against General Revenue was £26,081 2*s.* 1*d.* The total length of these roads was 913 miles 42 chains, being 21 miles 6 chains more than in 1896–97.

The total average expenditure per mile for maintenance, repair, and improvement of the roads and bridges was £27 15*s.* 9*d.* This was not, however, found sufficient to maintain the roads in the good condition they were in at the beginning of the year, and they were considerably damaged by heavy rains in the months of October and November.

The total expenditure during the year for reconstruction of roads taken over under Law 17 of 1890 was £692 1*s.* 10*d.* The total length taken over to the 31st March, 1898, was 985 miles 17 chains, and the average expenditure for maintaining these roads was £16 11*s.* 9*d.* per mile.

At the end of the year there were 71 miles 46 chains of main roads, and 52 miles 76 chains of parochial main roads under maintenance by contract.

The number of separate institutions and buildings the upkeep of which devolved upon the Public Works Department was 286, the same as in the previous year, and the cost amounted to £4,047 19*s.*, being £4,680 2*s.* 9*d.* less than the sum authorised. Owing to the depressed condition of the Colony, no work that could possibly be deferred was carried out. The expenditure was therefore kept very low, averaging about £14 per building. No new buildings were erected during the year.

The construction of bridges authorised by Law 20 of 1892 was continued, the expenditure during the year on this work was £12,621 3*s.* 8*d.* At the close of the year 89 out of the 104 bridges authorised were completed.

Considerable progress was made with the work of constructing the new Lunatic Asylum.

The enlargement of St. Catherine's District Prison was proceeded with, and the new female prison containing 66 cells was practically completed.

The lands for the extension of the Kingston Public Hospital were, with the exception of one or two lots, acquired and prepared for building operations.

Six and three-quarter miles of the second section of the mountain road in St. Andrew, under Law 13 of 1895, from Hopewell Gap to Hardware Gap were practically completed. Eight miles of the third section (12½ miles), from Hardware Gap to Silver Hill Bridge on the Buff Bay Road, were cut to full width, and the remainder was in hand at the close of the year.

JAMAICA 1897-8.

The fourth section (1⅜ths miles), the branch to Silver Hill, was completed, and it is now possible to drive from the "Cooperage" near Gordon Town, *via* Hardware Gap to Silver Hill, a distance of 19 miles.

The survey of the road from Gordon Town to Mavis Bank and Windsor Forest was completed, and surveys for the road from Bath *via* Cuna Cuna Pass to Moore Town were commenced.

The total expenditure on the mountain roads during the year was £15,463 2*s.* 4*d.*

The lighthouses at Plumb Point, Morant Point, Folly Point, and Negril Point were maintained and worked with efficiency and regularity throughout the year at a cost of £1,795 19*s.* 1*d.*

693½ miles of telegraph lines were under maintenance at the end of the year. The expenditure under this head amounted to £1,643 4*s.* 1*d.*

IRRIGATION.—RIO COBRE CANAL.

The revenue earned during 1897-98 from these works was £5,561 6*s.* 3*d.*, but only £5,132 10*s.* 3*d.* was collected; the cost of maintenance and supervision was £2,413 19*s.* 2*d.*, thus leaving a net profit of £2,618 11*s.*; the net profit in 1896-97 was £1,975 13*s.* 2*d.*

The irrigation works continue to prove of great benefit to the cultivation of bananas and oranges; since 1893 the area under bananas in the district irrigated has increased from a few hundred acres to nearly 5,000.

CROWN LANDS.

The Surveyor-General reports that there were numerous sales to small settlers of Crown land in lots of from 5 to 50 acres during the year under revision; 301 applications for land to the extent of 3,431¼ acres having been received. The demand for this class of land is steadily increasing.

Two bridle roads were laid out during the year giving access to the lands purchased at Adam Brandon's patent, and at Claremont, in Portland.

The Legislative Council having voted the sum of £778 in the Sessions of 1897, the Surveyor-General was enabled to construct a road, opening up the Crown lands at Troy, in Trelawny. It is gratifying to note that the settlers whose lands were opened

up by this road, although only 9 months elapsed between the voting of the money and the end of the year under review, had at the 31st March made great strides in the cultivation of their properties. Twenty-one settlers have laid out their holdings in coffee, oranges, kola, ground provisions, &c. on a small scale, and are making strenuous efforts to increase the crops. The men seem thoroughly to appreciate their privileges of ownership; nearly all of them have either built or are building shingled houses on the land.

During the year final judgments of forfeiture for non-payment of Quit Rents were obtained in the cases of 96 properties covering 36,066½ acres. Most of the land is suitable for cultivation.

Exclusive of four lots of land transferred to the West India Improvement Company, 3 pieces of land in Kingston, and one each in Portland and Clarendon were sold by the Government, realizing £341 13*s.*, or an average of about £3 per acre.

A large number of lots, principally in Kingston, were leased out by the Government, realizing an annual rental of £295 12*s.*

Lands to the extent of 1,472 acres were transferred to the West India Improvement Company during the year ended 31st March last, making 71,828 acres granted up to the present time under Law 12 of 1889.

It is to be regretted that the cocoanut trees on the Palisadoes show signs of decay; remedial measures have been taken by the Director of Public Gardens and Plantations, but without successful results.

Land for Railway Track.

The expenditure on account of lands for railway track to 31st March, 1898, was £81,057 0*s.* 9*d.*

The acquisition of lands for the track may now be regarded as practically completed, only £2,085 18*s.* 3*d.* of claims remaining to be paid on 31st March, 1898.

Railway.

The records of the transactions of the Jamaica Railway Company shows that during the year ended 31st March, 1898, the gross earnings of the railway amounted to the sum of £102,170 0*s.* 4*d.*, while the expenditure was £74,592 9*s.* 10*d.*: thus leaving a net revenue of £27,577 10*s.* 6*d.*

JAMAICA. 1897–8.

The following is a comparison of the receipts with those of the preceding year :—

—	1896–97.	1897–98.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Goods and cattle	53,200 14 0	58,424 9 6
Passengers	38,497 12 5	37,267 18 0
Wharf	5,990 14 3	5,682 9 11
Miscellaneous	790 12 3	795 2 11
Totals	98,479 12 11	102,170 0 4

The number of train miles run during the year amounted to 406,302, which shows the revenue to be at the rate of 5/0·35 per mile, and the expenditure 3/8·05, or a net revenue of 1/4·30 per mile. The operating expenses were equal to 73 per cent. of the receipts.

The number of passengers carried during the year shows a falling off, the total being 356,949, as against 384,611 in 1896–97.

£23,159 13*s.* 4*d.* was paid on account of Interest on Mortgage Bonds, and £3,200 on account of Sinking Fund.

POST OFFICE AND TELEGRAPHS.

The total postal receipts for the year amounted to £22,883 19*s.* 0½*d.*, being £1,541 12*s.* 1¼*d.* less than in 1896–97.

The telegraph receipts amounted to £5,085 12*s.* 6*d.*, a decrease of £394 6*s.* 9*d.* as compared with the previous year.

The Postmaster estimates £941 of the falling off in postal receipts to be due to the general depression in trade and agriculture which prevailed throughout the year, and £600 to the abolition of the system of prepaying official correspondence by means of stamps purchased by the Public Departments from the Post Office, and reversion to the franking system from 1st January 1898, the annual value of official postages being estimated at £2,500.

A decrease occurred under the head of packet as well as inland postages, and is attributed to the same causes.

The following statement shows the revenue and expenditure for the year 1897–98, compared with the two preceding years :—

Revenue.

Year.	Postages.			Postal Revenue.		Miscellaneous.	Total Postal Revenue.	Telegraph Revenue.	Grand Total.
	Packet.	Inland.	Total.	Commission on Money Orders.	Commission on Postal Orders.				
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1895-96 ...	4,946 15 11½	17,542 1 7½	22,488 17 7	388 6 7	519 12 1½	173 0 6	23,569 16 9½	6,156 9 6	29,726 6 3½
1896-97 ...	5,472 16 2	17,858 10 11¼	23,331 7 1¼	414 5 6	534 3 9½	145 14 9	24,425 11 1¾	5,479 19 3	29,905 10 4¾
1897-98 ...	4,869 10 3	16,984 3 0	21,853 13 3	373 16 2	574 7 7½	82 2 0	22,883 19 0½	5,085 12 6	27,969 11 6½

Expenditure.

Year.	Salaries.		Mail Conveyance.		Services.	Total Postal Expenditure.	Telegraph Expenditure.	Grand Total.
	Head Office.	District Offices.	Inland.	Ocean.				
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1895-96 ...	4,923 16 4	2,535 9 0	9,020 2 2	1,962 1 1	4,471 15 5½	22,913 4 0½	7,618 16 8	30,532 0 8½
1896-97 ...	5,193 12 7	2,681 8 9	9,841 2 11	2,289 1 8	5,317 17 1½	25,323 3 0½	7,556 8 5	32,879 11 5½
1897-98 ...	5,268 1 4	2,965 2 8	10,479 6 11	859 0 3	5,060 17 6	24,632 8 8	7,686 5 3	32,318 13 11

The total number of letters and postcards which passed through the Kingston Post Office and the several district post offices was 4,980,191, as against 4,375,374 in the previous year.

Nine new mail services came into operation and 18 district post offices were established during the year, making the total number of post offices in existence at the close of the year 160, as against 142 at the end of 1896–97.

The following figures show the money and postal order transactions for the year compared with the years 1895–96 and 1896–97 :—

Year.	Money Orders.					Postal Orders.		
	Jamaica Issue.		From other Countries payable in Jamaica.		Total Amount.	Issued.		Sold.
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.		No.	Amount.	Amount.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1895–96 ...	13,116	47,242 13 0	2,194	5,441 1 1	52,683 14 1	151,770	26,721 17 6	26,383 3 0
1896–97 ...	12,548	43,963 16 8	2,711	7,050 4 1	51,014 0 9	171,035	26,857 10 0	26,577 10 0
1897–98 ...	11,994	40,068 5 1	2,770	7,679 8 6	47,747 13 7	175,985	29,397 10 0	28,745 1 0

The earnings of the mail coaches for passenger fares and parcels amounted to £1,632 2*s.* 6*d.*, or £712 19*s.* 3*d.* less than in the preceding year. The falling off is due to the extension of the railway to Montego Bay and Port Antonio.

The declared value of parcels which passed through the parcels post was £3,289 11*s.* 10¾*d.*, against £3,273 14*s.* 5*d.* in 1896–97.

The revenue and expenditure under the head of telegraphs is shown in the statement already given.

The number of telegraph messages sent and received was 87,545, against 96,292 in 1896–97.

Sixty-nine telegraph stations were in existence at the close of the year, being the same number as in the previous year.

AGRICULTURE.

The depression of the year ended 31st March, 1897, continued during the following year, but the Colony was not afflicted to any extent with the drought and floods referred to in the penultimate paragraph of last year's Blue Book Report. The October rains were heavy in several parishes, and in a few parts caused some destruction of roads and private property. Speaking generally, however, the seasons were favourable to agriculture, and but for the lowered prices of nearly all the staples, even compared with the previous year, there would probably have been an appreciable increase in the value of exports. As it was, home products and manufactures (the latter a very small item proportionately) decreased very slightly compared with 1896-7, viz. :—from £1,384,278 to £1,377,826. Fruit and vegetables were more plentiful than during the preceding year owing to good seasons, and most crops were good except that of pimento, which was only about one-third of the average, though this disadvantage was somewhat counterbalanced by the unusually high prices obtained. The coffee crop was a fine one, but a very low price was secured both at home and abroad. The producer, though realizing very little cash from his sales, had a sufficiency of food from his provision ground owing to the fine seasons. In Jamaica the seasons are usually good, and there is little distress except during occasional prolonged droughts, which chiefly occur in a narrow comparatively rainless tract, made abnormally so by deforestation, which lies along the south-eastern sea-board. Further, in parishes almost entirely of the limestone formation, which covers most of the western and middle sections and part of the eastern section of the Island, the porous nature of the rock causes the water to sink until an impermeable stratum is found, usually very far below the surface, or else, where this formation

JAMAICA. 1897-8.

ends near the sea at a bed of alluvium, streams gush out. The inland limestone tract has very few streams, and these usually disappear after a course of a few miles into what are termed "sink holes." A great portion of Jamaica is not, therefore, a land of streams, as the Island is usually supposed to be, and the extensive limestone districts derive their water supply chiefly from tanks and ponds. A family can thus obtain a sufficient water supply to outlast any but very dry weather from a tank or pond constructed at the expense of a few pounds, provided a sufficient catch-water area is constructed, but this is seldom done, and most of the peasantry and a good many other occupiers of property do not thus secure themselves against the rainless day, but live on from day to day in contented neglect of what the future may bring, and in times of drought look to their more provident neighbours, usually the larger proprietors, to give them water for themselves and their stock. It is no wonder, therefore, if privation and distress occur at times, as during the severe droughts of 1896-97, when the supply in Manchester and St. Elizabeth especially became too low to be any longer given away. Were tanks with a sufficient catch-water area constructed by all owners of land in limestone districts, which have usually a good rainfall, there would be comparatively little distress in country parishes. In some places public tanks or reservoirs have been constructed, and greater attention has been paid of late years to water storage and supply. The greater portion of the dry Liguanea district contiguous to Kingston has an excellent water supply for household use by pipes from the Hope River, and a few artesian wells have been sunk with success, but it is feared that the cost of boring through the usually thick stratum of the limestone districts would be too great to be undertaken.

The returns of acreage under cultivation during the years ended 31st July 1897 and 1898 show a considerable shrinkage.

The following figures indicate the declension during the five years ended 31st July 1897. The figures for 1897-98 are also given. Compared with the previous year they may serve to indicate more nearly the present outlook as foreseen by cultivators. The figures are taken from the returns of property tax, and the collecting year begins on the 1st August. The Collector-General has thus to give returns of acreage 9 months in arrear of the figures for the financial year to which his report refers.

It should, however, be understood that the only alarming shrinkage in production has been in sugar and rum, which require capital and labour in large quantities for growth and manufacture, and the decay of the industry means loss of capital and restriction in the circulation of money. The falling off in logwood, pimento, oranges, and cocoanuts represent a diminished yield from trees on which very little labour is expended, except that of reaping,

as the logwood, pimento, and oranges grow without having been planted, and the cocoanuts, after having been once brought into bearing by cultivation, require no further expenditure. The diminished yield does not mean any failure of the source from which these products are derived. Low prices have resulted in logwood not having been reaped, but allowed to remain for further maturity pending better prices. Recently the growth of oranges has been commenced as a cultivated crop, but the groves planned out have not yet come into bearing. Substantial increases occurred in the production of coffee, bananas, cocoa, and ginger, and the only drawback has been the low prices of coffee. The apparent falling off in the acreage under cultivation is in a large measure to be attributed to taxes not having been paid on the full area under cultivation.

ACREAGE, YEAR ENDED 31ST JULY, OF LAND CHARGED WITH PROPERTY TAX.

DESCRIPTION OF LAND.	1892–93.	1893–94.	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.	1897–98.
I.—CULTIVATED LAND	177,497	181,295	182,668	182,489	164,644	164,307
II.—GUINEA GRASS	123,881	125,972	126,877	127,437	124,672	123,136
III.—PASTURE AND PIMENTO LAND ...	375,774	384,802	382,422	383,748	374,244	373,228
	677,152	692,069	691,967	693,674	663,560	660,671
IV.—WOOD AND RUINATE	1,268,483	1,284,477	1,260,178	1,268,563	1,218,149	1,187,909
Totals	1,945,635	1,976,546	1,952,145	1,962,237	1,881,709	1,848,580
Principal Items under I.						
Bananas	17,297	18,528	18,847	19,227	19,760	23,405
Canes (yielding Sugar and Rum) ...	31,555	31,284	30,971	30,036	28,764	27,123
Cocoa...	1,315	1,554	1,687	1,632	1,611	1,527
Cocoanuts	9,065	10,395	10,956	10,940	10,799	11,293
Coffee	22,423	23,523	23,643	25,559	22,387	22,901
Ginger	246	128	84	84	82	98
Ground Provisions	94,716	95,177	95,808	95,808	80,656	77,271

Three staples with an export value of over £10,000 are omitted, viz., logwood growing in pasture or ruinate land, pimento in pasture land or guinea grass, and oranges chiefly in pasture. It is difficult to classify descriptions of cultivation with more than an approximation to accuracy, as, except for bananas, canes, and coffee, and one or two other products usually cultivated in large patches, a property generally contains several descriptions of produce mingled together. Thus in 1896–97 the figures for the seven articles given above total 164,059 out of 164,644 acres of all descriptions of cultivated land.

There is no ground whatever for supposing, however, that only 585 acres represented the acreage of all other cultivated products during 1896–97, besides those tabulated. One of the tabulated articles (ginger) illustrates this clearly.

The acreage for the last few years is returned at 80 to 90 acres, while the export value, leaving out of consideration home consumption, was an average for the five years 1894–98 of £41,525, or, say, from £450 to £500 per acre, a value per acre far above that realized. The truth is that could we total the acreage of fruit, logwood, and other economic plants scattered over properties and growing around homesteads we would probably have to add many thousands to the acres shown under head I. At the same time the three heads, cultivated land, guinea grass, and pasture land, give almost the entire area of the Island made use of for the support of its inhabitants. This inhabited area, *i.e.* less than 700,000 acres out of a total estimated area of 2,692,000 acres, it will be seen, increased generally from 1st August 1892 to 31st July 1896, and has decreased by over 30,000 acres since, *i.e.* by about 4 per cent. The decrease occurs principally under cultivated land, where it has been about 10 per cent.

The most rapid decrease under this head occurs on ground provisions. For the 6 years included in the table there was but a slight difference year by year in acreage till 1895–96, since which the decline has been rapid—1895–96, 94,332 acres; 1896–97, 80,656 acres; 1897–98, 77,271 acres.

There has been a decrease generally in quantities of imported goods within the period. As ground provisions, *i.e.* root esculents, are the staple vegetable food of all classes, and are almost entirely cultivated by the peasantry, these figures seem to indicate general decrease in prosperity, when decreased importations are taken into account. In this connection it may be remarked that the agricultural holdings returned for the year ended 31st July 1896 (including those on which there were arrears of taxes) were 90,667, and in the following year only 76,585, and that all the tax returns of the last few years indicate a considerable increase of arrears. It must be borne in mind, however, that the decrease in the amount allowed by the Legislative Council for travelling by revenue officers has in all probability appreciably affected the collection of taxes, and

JAMAICA. 1897–8.

while there has undoubtedly been a considerable temporary decline in the Colony's income, it is very likely not so great as some of the tax returns might lead one to imagine.

Turning now from cultivation of products to their exportation, we find the value of exported home products and manufactures in the year ended 31st March 1897-98, in both of which the total values realized were almost the same, has been about 20 per cent. less than 1895–96, or about double the decline in acreage. Besides the fact that cultivation cannot recklessly be thrown up because less quantity or value is realized in one or other period, and that therefore less fluctuation in acreage must be expected than in exports, it must be remembered that the figures for acreage are given for a period nine months before those of exports, that crops mature, and are therefore planted ahead of reaping at different periods, and also that there are no accurate data available of the quantities and therefore of the total values of articles consumed in the Island. At the same time when several years are compared it is evident that there has been a considerable shrinkage both in cultivation and exportation.

In Jamaica only a very limited number of persons have adopted improved methods of cultivation, hence the average yield per acre may fairly be taken as much the same year by year, except as affected by rains or drought. Comparing cultivation and exportation of home products and manufactures for the last five years we find exports highest in 1893–94, viz., £1,982,596, whence they declined moderately every year till 1895–96 when they leapt suddenly down from £1,775,016 to £1,384,278, falling slightly the next year to £1,377,826. Cultivated and grazing land increased or decreased generally very slowly till the same year when the acreage went down from 693,674 to 663,560, with a slight declension for the year ended 31st July, 1898, to 660,671 acres.

The details of exports are more fully given under trade, but the following figures furnish a succinct comparison with the preceding year :—

—	Value 1896–7	Value 1897–8	Price 1896–7.	Price 1897–8.
	£	£		
Bananas ...	302,415	445,866	1*s.* 3*d.* a bunch	1*s.* 3¼*d.* a bunch
Oranges ...	155,554	134,674	33 to 34 a 1*s.*	32 to 33 a 1*s.*
Sugar ...	148,679	120,959	9*s.* 3*d.* per cwt.	8*s.* 6*d.* a cwt.
Rum ...	123,211	92,053	1*s.* 6*d.* a gallon	1*s.* 4*d.* a gallon
Coffee ...	210,946	165,494	63*s.* 4*d.* a cwt.	38*s.* 9*d.* a cwt.

Details of exports—*cont.*

—	Value 1896-7.	Value 1897–8.	Price 1896–7.	Price 1897–8.
	£	£		
Logwood ...	161,565	118,215	75*s.* a ton	55*s.* 6*d.* a ton
Pimento ...	77,152	52,943	15*s.* 6*d.* a cwt.	27*s.* 3*d.* a cwt.
Cocoa ...	15,297	37,435	33*s.* 4*d.* a cwt.	46*s.* 7*d.* a cwt.
Cocoanuts ...	35,407	39,648	60*s.* per M.	68*s.* 9*d.* per M.
Ginger ...	33,041	34,884	60*s.* a cwt.	55*s.* 6*d.* a cwt.
	1,263,267	1,242,171		
Minor products and manufactures ...	121,011	135,655		
Totals ...	1,384,278	1,377,826		

There was thus a considerable increase in the export value of bananas with a slight rise in price, a remarkable rise in price of pimento, but a crop stated by the Collector-General to have been only about a third of the average, resulting in a loss of total value. A good crop of coffee made the total loss less than it would have otherwise been with the very low prices. This product and logwood suffered the most, though sugar and rum together show a serious loss to the cane industry. Happily the price of sugar has lately risen, and steps now being taken to establish an irrigation scheme in Vere, if carried into effect will, it is hoped, considerably benefit the planters, and enable a central factory to be started. The price of cocoa was excellent for Jamaica, though low as compared with that of the best Trinidad varieties. There is no apparent reason why the intelligent use of capital in the production of cocoa, combined with due care in its curing and packing, should not lead to its becoming a major product as in Trinidad. The demand for the article is not likely to decrease as its valuable qualities become more known.

Generally speaking the export value of bananas, cocoa, cocoanuts, ginger, and minor products realising £10,000, and under, very nearly set off the loss on most staples, a loss greater in value than quantity owing to generally low prices.

Stock rearing has declined as well as cultivation. Guinea grass and pasture land has not increased as much in acreage as cultivated land has, as the table of acreage shows, but stock seem

JAMAICA. 1897–8.

to have sensibly decreased in number. The following figures appear to indicate this.

The tax on horsekind used on public roads is 11*s.* each, on livery horses 7*s.* each.

The collection for the year 1895–96 showed 33,506 horses, and for the year 1896–97 showed 31,667 horses used on public roads (including livery horses). For the same periods we have 14,059 and 12,588 asses so used.

Returns by taxpayers for these years show :—

—	1895–96.	1896–97.
Horsekind	13,322	10,541
Cattle	103,403	99,201
Asses	2,217	1,769
Sheep	14,456	13,831
Goats	8,554	6,869
Swine	24,060	20,718

The above figures are for years ended 31st July. Returns are also furnished of taxes collected on horsekind and asses for the years ended 31st March 1897 and 1898. They show in 1897 £16,896 for horsekind and £2,219 for asses, in 1898 £15,801 for horsekind and £1,914 for asses, decreases indicating a diminished use of these animals, or a failure to pay taxes on them.

The war in Cuba resulted in benefit to stock raisers. The exportation of stock in 1896–97 amounted to only 57 animals, including cattle, horsekind, mules, and swine; in 1897–98 it amounted to 1,327 animals, viz. :—1,243 cattle, 8 horsekind, 54 swine, and 22 sheep, all except the horsekind, shipped to Cuba ; 3,120 fowls were also exported to that country. These exportations to Cuba realised £9,163 13*s.* If quarantine restrictions on Cuba are removed, with the better sanitary regulations now in force, a considerable trade in stock might spring up between the two islands, until the larger one recovers its heavy losses owing to the war.

The Jamaica Agricultural Society has done excellent work during the year in encouraging the breeding of stock, by importations of choice stallions for pens, boars, sheep, poultry, &c., by the encouragement of agricultural shows, the formation of local branches, the publication of an agricultural journal, &c. Demonstrations of the best methods of cultivating and curing products are given to the peasantry by a Superintendent of the Botanical

Department. Model grape farms which had been established in districts of St. Elizabeth and Westmoreland have given excellent results. It is hoped that the culture of grapes for the American winter market may in time become a profitable industry. Public opinion has been awakened to the need of agricultural training as an important portion of the curriculum of teaching in a Colony depending almost entirely on agriculture for its income, and were more modern tools and methods of cultivating, curing, and packing of products resorted to, and were exporters more prudent in forbearing to glut the market at every slight indication of a rise in prices, the income of the Colony might be considerably increased. Bearing these facts in mind, and remembering that less than 700,000 of the 2,692,000 acres of land in the Colony, most of which is more or less fertile and blest with good seasons, is occupied as cultivated and grazing land, it is evident that by the exercise of prudence and skill in cultivation and exportation, the Colony would be able to support comfortably a considerably larger population.

BOTANICAL.

The activity of the Department is indicated by the following figures :—

Plants distributed—	Hope Gardens	...	135,005
„	Castleton Gardens	...	5,602
„	Resource „	...	66,699
	Total ...	...	207,306

besides pods, seeds, &c. About seven-eighths of the plants distributed were economic ones.

The stock in the nursery at Hope Industrial School comprises about 129,300 plants.

The visitors to Hope were 18,071, as against over 12,000 last year.

Plants are distributed at a very cheap rate and carriage free, some economic plants being priced as low as one halfpenny each, and a very large number are distributed free.

A great deal of the time of the Department, the Director states, is taken up in research and the giving of information respecting the value, properties, &c., of plants and specimens sent to the Herbarium, and in replying to enquiries from merchants and others as to whether articles they require are procurable in the Colony or would pay if cultivated. The Department is thus a valuable auxiliary to traders as well as agriculturists.

Information is also given to the public through the monthly bulletins.

Considerable attention has been paid during the year to the culture of coffee, cocoa, sugar canes, grape vines, pines, oranges, mangoes, tobacco, rubber, &c., especially in discovering what varieties best suit the soil and climate.

At what is called the Orange Garden at Resource, which has only been started within the last few years, timber trees, cassava, fodder plants, &c., are grown and experimented on, as well as oranges.

At Hope Industrial School there were 41 boys in residence at the end of the year, as against 29 on the 1st April 1897. A few of the bigger boys have small garden plots allotted to them, where they cultivate tomatoes, cucumbers, pumpkins, cabbages, &c., which they sell to the Institution for their own consumption, besides supplying a few outside customers. In one month, 2 cwts. of vegetables were thus sold to the School. The boys are allowed to spend the money earned in this way in purchasing story books, toys, &c., and a small portion of the money rewards is deposited in the Penny Bank at the Jamaica High School. The School, it is stated, may fairly be considered a first-class one.

Mr. Cradwick, the Superintendent at Hope Gardens, has continued his lecturing tours, visiting during the year the parishes of Portland, St. Ann, Manchester, St. James, and Hanover.

He has induced many persons in dry districts of Manchester and St. Elizabeth to grow grapes, with excellent results, and finds an increasing desire shown by the people to adopt improved methods according to their resources. As an illustration, a piece of land formerly planted with ginger, and now looked upon as worthless, had been forked and manured with rotten cane trash, and with this simple treatment produced excellent ginger, thus showing that this product can be grown on land for a term of years.

EDUCATION.

The number of school children on the books decreased by 354 during the year, and those in average attendance by 428, as compared with the preceding year.

The amounts expended on Education in the last two years were £67,539 in 1896–97, and £69,387 in 1897–98.

There has been a falling off of 8 in the number of first-class and 18 in the number of third-class schools, but an increase of 42 in the number of those of the second-class, showing that on the whole the schools are continuing to improve in efficiency.

The total number of schools on the list has decreased by 11.

The annual examination of Teachers and Training College Students was held in December as usual, and resulted in the passing of 5 Teachers out of 11 who went up for the examination, and 149 Students out of 183 who presented themselves, viz. :—

	Presented.	Passed.
1st year	63	57
2nd year	78	68
3rd year	42	24

The examination of Pupil Teachers and Volunteers was held in July 1897, with the result that 643 passed out of 1,671 who presented themselves, or 38 per cent.

In accordance with the expressed wish of the Members of the Legislative Council, a Commission, under Law 9 of 1873, was appointed by the late Governor to enquire into the present system of Elementary Education in the Colony.

Training College for Girls at Shortwood.

On the 1st April 1897 there were 29 Students; one was admitted during the year, one dismissed, two left to look for work, one died, and one was discharged on medical certificate, leaving 25 in the Institution at the end of the year. They all sat for examination in December 1897. One passed in Honours, three in the First Class, and nine in the Second, and five in the Third.

The Practising School obtained 47 marks, and was placed in the Third Class.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

Hope Industrial School.

There were 29 boys in this Institution on the 1st April 1897, and at the end of the year there were 41. This gives an increase in the number of boys for the year of 12, and an average increase for the past 6 years of 3·7.

The older boys were employed in work at the Hope Gardens, and the younger in keeping the buildings and grounds in order, and in other light work.

The School was examined in August 1897 by Mr. J. Kerrich, Inspector of Schools, who states that as the School is being worked on the lines of an Agricultural Elementary School, it is hardly possible to mark it in the same manner as an ordinary Elementary School, but that it shows an improvement over last year, and may now fairly be considered a first-class one.

Lessons in the practice and theory of agriculture were given to the boys by the Superintendent of the Hope Gardens.

The health of the boys has been good.

Belmont Orphanage.

This school was maintained partly by public and partly by voluntary contributions.

The children were employed in washing, plaiting, &c., and in garden work, and at the Eistoddfod competition, held at the Jamaica Institute, in June 1897, one girl was awarded the prize for hats and another for baskets.

The children attended school as usual.

Alpha Cottage.

This is an Institution for both boys and girls, and is under the control of the Roman Catholic Church.

At the commencement of the year there were 51 boys and 40 girls, and at the end 48 boys and 40 girls.

The boys are chiefly employed in gardening and in field labour, and the girls in laundry, sewing, cooking, and domestic work, and in gardening.

Both schools retain their positions as first-class schools. The Boys' School gained one mark during the year, making 65 marks.

Shortwood Industrial School.

There were 35 girls in this Institution at the commencement of the year and 33 at the end, 2 of whom were out on license.

The employment of the girls consisted of mending, washing, and making of clothes, baking and housework, &c.

REFORMATORIES.

BOYS' REFORMATORY.

The following are the more important statistics of the Institution for the year 1897–98 compared with 1896–97 :—

GENERAL	1st April, 1897.	1st April, 1898.	1896–97.	1897–98.
Boys in Reformatory section	124	120		
„ Industrial School ...	89	77		
	213	197	213	197
Daily average number of boys			204	201
Discharged			37	55
„ during 3 years ended 1st April, 1897 and 1898, respectively			142	144
Percentage re-convicted and sent to prison (so far as known) during 1896–97 and 1897–98			15·63	2·78
On license at end of year			2	1
Deaths			1	1
Marks awarded school (making it a first-class Elementary School under the Code)			61	61

Financial.

——	1896–97.	1897–98.	1896–97.	1897–98.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Gross Expenditure	... ...	... ...	3,857 18 3¼	3,612 8 6¾
Less—				
Earning by labour and sale of articles	318 13 11	555 3 5		
Reimbursement from Parishes for Industrial School children	1,211 2 0	1,406 14 9		
	1,529 15 11	1,961 18 2	1,529 15 11	1,961 18 2
Net cost			2,328 2 4¼	1,650 10 4¾

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Gross cost per head per diem		1	0·43			11·80
Net „ „ „			6·49			
Gross cost of superintendence per head per diem...			5·1			5·1
Gross cost of diet per head per diem ...			3·16			3
Work bringing no money return	1,119	19	6	1,092	7	7
Rewards paid...	31	6	0	36	15	9

The description of labour in which the boys are employed under trained superintendence fall under the general heads of garden and field labour, carpentering, tailoring, blacksmiths, masons' and bricklayers' work, cooking, and baking. It is satisfactory to note from the statistics given above that although the average number of inmates was slightly less than in the preceding year, earnings by labour and sale of articles were £555 3*s.* 5*d.* (about £2 15*s.* per inmate) compared with £318 13*s.* 11*d.* in 1896–97.

The health of the inmates was in the main satisfactory, but 23 cases of malarial fever occurred, and 33 of influenza; the latter was prevalent in the neighbourhood at the time the cases occurred in the Reformatory. The cases generally were of a mild character, but there was one severe case of malarial remittent fever, resulting in the only death in the Institution during the year.

GIRLS' REFORMATORY.

Statistical Information.

	1896–97.	1897–98.
No. of inmates at end of year...	26	26
Daily average number	24	27
Admissions from the Courts	9	4
Discharges	5	2
Deaths	—	2

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Gross Expenditure	690	0	2	736	3	4½
Less reimbursement from Parishes for Industrial School children and work done by girls ...	177	0	1	214	5	11
Net cost	513	0	1	521	17	5½
Gross cost per inmate per diem		1	7		1	6
Cost of superintendence per diem			8			7½
Cost of diet per diem			3¾			3½

On the 11th March, 1898, thirty-one girls were temporarily removed to the Girls' Reformatory premises from the Industrial School at Shortwood, consequent on sanitary alterations which were being effected at the latter Institution.

The girls continued at their usual occupations of making and washing, &c., of clothes for the Institution and the Boys' Reformatory. Washing for private parties was taken in also.

The health of the inmates was not so good as usual; there were 21 cases of malarial fever (then very prevalent throughout the Island) two of which terminated fatally.

IMMIGRATION.

There were no immigrants introduced into the Colony, and none were sent back to India during the year under review.

Forty-five coolies were granted passports to leave the Colony, 29 for British and the remainder for foreign ports.

There was a great decrease in the birth-rate as compared with that of the previous year, only seven births being reported or ·44 per cent., as against 1·19 per cent. in 1896 of the total number of immigrants under indenture, while the deaths numbered 30 or 1·91 as compared with 2·27 in 1896.

Although the present year has been one of great depression, causing many sugar estates to go out of cultivation, it is a matter of congratulation that no cases of distress amongst coolies were reported to the Protector. Most of the men easily found

employment on the banana plantations, while others were able to make a living by growing rice, and otherwise working for themselves.

An increase was shown in the number of coolie depositors in the Government Savings Bank, there being 998 in 1896–97 as compared with 933 in 1895–96, the amount on deposit increasing from £21,628 17*s.* 1*d.* to £21,964 19*s.* 3*d.*, or £22 per head this year as compared with £21·78 last year.

There were no murders, suicides, or other serious crimes amongst the East Indian population during the year under review.

Fifty-five coolies were undergoing treatment in the lunatic asylum at the end of the year. The Protector reports that the general condition of the East Indian population continues to be prosperous, and that the relations between employer and employed are healthy.

During the year, 616 labourers left the Island from Kingston for the Isthmus of Panama and Carthagena, and 637 returned from those places and from British Guiana and other parts of the West Indies.

GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK.

The number of depositors and the amount of deposits in the Bank have been as follows in the last ten years :—

Year.	No. of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits.
1887–88	18,510	393,250
1888–89	19,444	408,213
1890-91	21,747	423,011
1891–92	22,824	428,348
1892–93	23,902	417,978
1893–94	25,533	457,924
1894–95	27,045	453,875
1895–96	28,385	464,737
1896–97	29,719	469,226
1897–98	30,660	468,199

The year under review shows an increase of 941 in the number of depositors, but a decrease of £1,027 in the amount of deposits as compared with 1896–97.

In the above amount of deposits are included 185 deposit accounts for the following Public Funds :—

		£	s.	d.
1	Constabulary Reward Fund ...	80	15	7
1	„ Pension Fund ...	2	7	1
14	Sinking Funds	7,525	14	0
1	Smith and Beckford's Charity ...	100	0	0
2	Turks Islands	1,666	10	10
162	Chancery Fund Accounts ...	23,476	5	4
4	Other Government Accounts ...	1,770	2	8

There were also 250 accounts for trusts, charities, suits, administrator general and bankrupt estates, amounting to £23,394 0*s.* 11*d.*

The remaining accounts, 30,225, representing £410,184 0*s.* 8½*d.*, are all ordinary deposits, and old Savings Bank balances £1,678, making a total of £469,878 13*s.* 10½*d.*

Of the total number of accounts open at the end of the year 19,518 were for £5 and under, while those of £100 and over numbered 1,161, being decreases of 1884 and 55 respectively, as compared with the previous year.

The assets of the Bank on the 31st March last were distributed as follows :—

						£	s.	d.
Consols 2¾ per cent.						20,404	17	3
Inscribed Stock :—								
Canada	3 per cent					27,908	0	8
Cape of Good Hope	4 „					47,766	6	8
Ceylon	4 „					24,881	5	2
New South Wales	3½ „					40,528	13	7
Victoria	4 „					32,043	1	0
Jamaica	4 „					9,900	0	0
Queensland	3½ „					14,963	8	1
New Zealand	... ...					15,011	9	5
Western Australia	... ...					498	13	4
						213,500	17	11
Debentures :—								
Canada	4 „ ...	53,990	12	6				
New South Wales	5&4 „ ...	60,497	10	0				
South Australia	4&6 „ ...	52,431	2	6				
Victoria	4&4½ „ ...	47,308	12	6				
Jamaica	5 „ ...	3,800	0	0		218,027	17	6
						451,933	12	8
Cash in Colonial Bank ...						17,934	0	2½
Cash in hand ...						11	1	0
Total ...						£469,878	13	10½

JAMAICA. 1897–8.

The deposits during the year amounted to £228,831 8*s.* 8¼*d.*, and the withdrawals to £229,773 11*s.* 5½*d.*

The expenses of management and the interest credited to depositors amounted to £15,984 19*s.* 7*d.*, while the revenue realised £17,307 9*s.* 4*d.*, leaving a net profit of £1,322 9*s.* 9*d.* on the year's transactions.

The revenue compared with the preceding year shows an increase of £296 9*s.* 2*d.*

TRADE.

The depression in the trade commented on in last year's report continued during 1897-98.

Compared with 1896-97 exports were £1,448,443 as against £1,470,241, and imports for home consumption £1,674,381 as against £1,864,612, a decline of £190,231. Exports will be seen to have been almost stationary in value, while imports have considerably decreased. There has been no appreciable increase in the products for home consumption, returns of rum duties, stock on pens, acreage under cultivation, &c., showing decreases generally, while, except in Kingston, where the construction of the Improvement Works on certain streets and sewers continued, there were few works affording continuous remunerative employment for artisans and labourers.

The following table shows the exports and imports for ten years :—

Year.	Exports.				Imports.			
	Home Products and Manufactures.	British and Foreign Products and Manufactures.	Coin and Bullion.	Total Exports.	Home Consumption.	Coin and Bullion.	Total for Home and Specie.	Total Imports.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
(*a*) 1887–88	1,661,601	17,668	149,321	1,828,590	1,586.129	145,986	1.732,115	1,695,607
(*a*) 1888-89	1,501.660	15,942	97,222	1,614,824	1,501,905	61,017	1,562,922	1,597,600
Half-year 1890	883,965	8,094	40,483	932,546	899,001	30,415	929,416	938,153
(*b*) 1890–91	1,807,084	15,290	80 440	1.902,814	2,089,836	63,343	2,153,180	2,190,746
1891–92	1.628,777	32,109	61,210	1,722,096	1,756,150	6,849	1.762,999	1,759,890
1892–93	1,690,637	18,944	50,226	1.759,807	1,917,278	11,279	1,928,557	1,941,482
1893–94	1,982,596	17,342	75,751	2,075,689	2,095,037	41,076	2,136,113	2,157,795
1894–95	1,848,877	14,700	57,844	1,921,422	2.162,188	28,525	2,190,712	2,191,745
1895–96	1,775,016	9,553	88.537	1,873,105	2,237,787	17,850	2.255,637	2,288,946
1896–97	1,384.278	16,411	69,552	1,470,241	1,836,849	27,763	1.864.612	1,856,378
1897-98	1,377,826	20,246	50,371	1,448,443	1,658,632	15,749	1,674,381	1,660,668
(*c*) Average of ten years	1,665,835·2	17,820·5	78,047·4	1,761,703 1	1,884,179·1	41,943·7	1,926,122·8	1,934,085·7

(*a*) Year commenced 1st October. (*b*) Year has commenced on 1st April since 1890. (*c*) Excluding half year ended 31st March 1890.

JAMAICA. 1897-8.

The considerable decrease in wealth in the last two years is apparent when increase of population is taken into account. Thus in 1887–88 the estimated mean population was 613,376, exports £1,828,590 or £1,679,269 if we exclude specie, which was taken away and imported in large quantities until the exodus to Colon came to an end. £1,679,269 divided amongst that number of persons would be £2 14*s.* 9*d.* per head. Imports for home consumption (excluding specie) were £1,586,129, or £2 11*s.* 8½*d.* per head. In 1897–98 the estimated mean population was 713,384, exports (including specie) £1,377,826, or £1 13*s.* 3½*d.* per head, and imports for home consumption (excluding specie) £1,658,632, or £2 4*s.* 7½*d.* per head.

In a tropical climate, blest in most districts with abundant rainfall and a fairly productive soil, such a temporary check to prosperity does not imply destitution except in a few isolated instances, as fruit, pulse, and ground provisions can be raised with comparatively little trouble. The pinch too is felt far less by the peasantry than by artisans and traders, and the professional classes. At the same time progress is greatly retarded, and great effort is needed to keep up the necessary competition with other countries for which the initiation of new enterprises, fostering of new products, and opening new markets is requisite, owing to the check to the cultivation of staples induced by low prices, and heavy duties at American ports. There is, however, no surplus in private hands with which to initiate new enterprises. Indeed the greater withdrawals from, than deposits in, Savings Banks of late years is one indication that the people generally are drawing on their reserve funds to meet present necessities.

The Collector-General reports that, owing to low prices in 1896–97 and in 1897–98, the Colony has lost about one-fourth of its former income from exports alone, and that the prices of produce continue flat and irresponsive with no sure indications of an immediate revival of trade. The only substantial increase compared with the past year has been in bananas and some minor products, especially cocoa, while former staples, such as coffee, rum, sugar, and logwood continue on the down grade.

The quantities and prices of the principal products during the past ten years are given in the annexed table :—

		1887–88.	1888–89.	1890-91.	1891–92.	1892–93.	1893–94.	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.	1897–98.
Sugar	cwt.	490,480 *11s. 9d.*	323,238 *15s. 1½d.*	377,901 *12s. 6d.*	425,793 *12s.*	371,821 *13s.*	410,537 *13s. 9d.*	398,683 *12s.*	390,918 *10s.*	321,468 *9s. 3d.*	284,375 *8s. 6d.*
Rum	gal.	1,868,490 *2s. 2d.*	1,374,931 *2s.*	1,593,584 *2s. 6d.*	1,704,919 *3s.*	1,698,272 *2s. 3d.*	1,461,220 *2s.*	1,956,291 *1s. 11d.*	1,881,146 *1s. 9d.*	1,642,819 *1s. 6d.*	1,379,278 *1s. 4d.*
Coffee	cwt.	98,963 *65s.*	84,606 *69s.*	75,680 *75s.*	83,926 *77s. 6d.*	97,304 *70s.*	88,293 *77s. 6d.*	95,129 *75s.*	84,392 *67s. 6d.*	66,614 *63s. 4d.*	85,410 *38s. 9d.*
Dyewoods — Logwood ...	tons	101,901 *69s. 4d.*	115,454 *65s.*	109,283 *70s.*	86,675 *70s.*	92,622 *72s. 6d.*	89,736 *100s.*	76,333 *90s.*	84,478 *85s.*	43,084 *75s.*	42,600 *55s. 6d.*
Dyewoods — Fustic	„	2,463 *60s.*	793 *54s.*	950 *55s.*	677 *60s.*	6,461 *65s.*	9,333 *70s.*	1,833 *60s.*	1,098 *60s.*	2,779 *60s.*	4,611 *48s. 3d.*
Ginger	cwt.	10,222 *38s.*	8,952 *41s. 7d.*	10,886 *45s.*	16,273 *50s.*	13,632 *40s.*	14,931 *60s.*	15,504 *57s. 6d.*	17,505 *57s. 6d.*	11,014 *60s.*	12,573 *55s. 6d.*
Pimento	„	66,559 *13s. 5d.*	46,180 *27s. 2d.*	90,363 *18s.*	63,730 *16s.*	69,747 *17s.*	87,756 *17s. 6d.*	83,956 *20s.*	97,347 *18s. 6d.*	99,551 *15s. 6d.*	38,828 *27s. 3d.*
Cocoanuts	No.	5,909,301	4,831,615	8,554,618	7,855,656	6,978,988	9,171,347	10,143,500	9,443,452	11,802,224	11,533,726
	Price per M.	*70s.*	*63s.*	*65s.*	*63s.*	*70s.*	*75s.*	*72s. 6d.*	*80s.*	*60s.*	*69s.*
Other Fruit ...	value £	337,403	304,941	503,537	287,810	375,860	493,248	479,352	493,722	468,819	590,365
Bananas ...	per bunch	*1s. 7½d.*	*1s. 9d.*	*1s. 10d.*	*1s. 6d.*	*1s. 7½d.*	*1s. 10d.*	*1s. 9½d.*	*1s. 6d.*	*1s. 3d.*	*1s. 3¼d.*
Oranges ...	price per M.	*27s.*	*29s.*	*28s.*	*24s.*	*30s.*	*30s.*	*32s. 8d.*	*35s.*	*30s.*	*30s. 7d.*

*

Average price of each article stated in *italics* under quantity : thus *11s. 9d.* under Sugar for 1887-88 is that rate per cwt.

* Half-year, 1889–90, omitted.

JAMAICA. 1897–8.

These figures indicate the general lowering of prices within the past 4 or 5 years on the older staples, particularly within the last two, when the depreciation was most marked on coffee and logwood. Sales of these articles, which are dealt in to a great extent by the yeoman and small trader, afford to many the wherewithal for purchasing articles of clothing, and paying taxes and church dues, and the unremunerative prices obtained on them have led to poverty, though not to any large extent to destitution, in the districts where they are staples. Coffee is especially a small settler's crop; of the total area under coffee, which amounts to 22,387 acres, more than 20,000 are in lots of under 50 acres each, and parishes, such as Manchester, where it is largely cultivated have felt the pinch severely. On the other hand, bananas though lowered in price give so excellent a yield, compared to the labour employed and cost of production, that the two parishes, Portland and St. Mary, where they are cultivated most have remained fairly prosperous.

The following are the figures for the two years of total exports :—

——	1896-97.	1897-98.	Increase.	Decrease.
I. Live animals, food, drink, and narcotics.	1,146,687	1,186,743	40,056	—
II. Raw materials... ...	215,757	172,846	—	42,911
III. Manufactured articles ..	38,245	38,483	238	—
IV. Coin and bullion ...	69,552	50,371	—	19,181
Total	1,470,241	1,448,443	40,294	62,092
Net decrease ...	—	—	—	21,798

The net decrease in 1896-97 was £402,864.

In 1897-98 a year of favourable seasons (while 1896-97 was one of drought in many districts), there would undoubtedly have been an increase instead of a small decrease but for the lower prices, as shown in the statement of products.

The following table shows increases or decreases on products with an exportable value in both years of over £10,000 :—

Article of Export.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity Increase.	Value Increase.	Percentage Increase Quantity.	Percentage Increase Value.	Price.
			Increased Quantities and Values over 1896–97.				
	Bunches.	£	Bunches.	£			
Bananas ...	6,981,858	445,866	2,143,213	143,451	+ 44·3	+ 47·4	1*s.* 3¼*d.* per bunch, 1*s.* 3*d.* 1896–97.
Cocoa	Cwt. 16,016	37,435	Cwt. 6,838	22,139	+ 74·5	+ 144·7	46*s.* 7*d.* „ cwt., 33*s.* 4*d.* „
Ginger	„ 12,573	34,884	„ 1,559	1,843	+ 14·2	+ 5·6	55*s.* 6*d.* „ „ 60*s.* „
			Decreased Quantity, Increased Value.				
	Number.		Decrease number.		Decrease quantity.		
Cocoanuts ...	11,533,726	39,648	268,498	4,242	— 2·3	+ 12·0	68*s.* 9*d.* „ M., 60*s.* „
			Increased Quantity, Decreased Value.				
	Cwt.		Increase cwt.	Decrease.		Decrease.	
Coffee	85,410	165,494	18,796	45,452	+ 28·2	— 21·5	38*s.* 9*d.* „ cwt., 63*s.* 4*d.* „
			Decreased Quantities and Values.				
	Gallons.		Decrease gls.	Decrease.	Decrease.	Decrease.	
Rum	1,379,278	92,053	263,541	31,158	— 16·0	— 25·3	1*s.* 4*d.* „ gallon, 1*s.* 6*d.* „
	Cwt.		Decrease cwt.	Decrease.	Decrease.	Decrease.	
Sugar	284,375	120,959	37,093	27,720	— 11·5	— 18·6	8*s.* 6*d.* „ cwt., 9*s.* 3*d.* „
	Number.		Decrease number.				
Oranges... ...	88,013,091	134,674	15,689,684	20,880	— 15·1	— 13·4	30*s.* 7*d.* „ M., 30*s.* „
	Cwt.		Cwt.				
Pimento ...	38,828	52,943	60,723	24,209	— 61·1	— 31·4	27*s.* 3*d.* „ cwt., 15*s.* 6*d.* „
	Tons.						
Logwood ...	42,600	118,215	483	43,350	— 1·1	— 26·8	55*s.* 6*d.* „ ton, 75*s.* „
	Cwt.						
Logwood Extract	21,001	20,984	—	6,541	—	— 23·8	20*s.* „ cwt., quantity for 1896–97 not shown.

JAMAICA. 1897–8.

The increases in value on bananas, cocoa, ginger and cocoanuts amount together to £171,675, the decreases on the other 7 articles yielding over £10,000 during both years to £199,310, a net decrease of £27,635. These 11 articles represent a value of £1,263,155 out of £1,377,826 for home products and manufactures in 1897–98, leaving £114,671 for about 60 other articles under that head ; in 1896–97 they represented £1,290,792 out of £1,384,278, leaving £93,486 for these other articles, the increase for 1897–98 being £21,185. Add the increase £28,223 for cocoa, cocoanuts, and ginger, usually classed among minor products, and we get £49,408 increase. Add £143,451 for bananas making £192,859, and it is evident that exportation of this fruit, and of minor products, saved the Colony from a grave loss of income. Bananas increased by 47·4 per cent. value, and all minor products, including cocoa, cocoanuts and ginger by 27·9 per cent. during the year.

Of all the exported articles cocoa showed the most remarkable percentage increase, viz., from £15,297 to £37,435, or by 144·7 per cent.

Minor products, besides cocoa, cocoanuts, and ginger, showing substantial increases in quantity and value, were honey and beeswax, cigars, fustic, bitterwood, and annatto, together £20,812. Against this set lancewood spars 21,613 less in number and £6,975 in value. The demand for spars is limited, and the number (45,223) and value (£13,567) for 1896–97 were abnormal.

The average prices, which are now given for the first time in comparison with the quantities, have, it will be seen, declined within the last few years, especially within the last two, on nearly every staple, and markedly so on rum, sugar, coffee, and the dyewoods—logwood and fustic. Bananas have decreased in value, but considerably increased in quantity, demand being great and the cost of production very moderate. The price of oranges keeps a fair value, and would improve if greater care were exercised in selection and packing. The price of ginger has improved. In 1897-98 pimento realised a very high price, owing to the failure of the crop ; this berry being an exportable product in Jamaica only, as trees grown in other countries do not possess spicy qualities.

The following table gives the percentage proportion of each product :—

——	1893–94	1894–95	1895–96	1896–97	1897–98
Sugar	14·2	12·9	11·0	10·1	8·3
Rum	7·4	10·1	9·3	8·4	6·3
Coffee	17·3	19·3	16·0	14·4	11·4
Dyewoods	24·3	19·0	20·4	11·6	8·9
Fruit	26·6	27·9	29·9	34·3	42·8
Pimento	3·8	4·5	5·1	5·2	3·6
Minor products ...	6·4	6·3	8·3	16·1	18·7

This increase, however, has not compensated for the decrease on staples generally. A glance at the table of exports and imports from 1887–88 to 1897–98 shows that the highest figure was reached in 1893–94, when home products realised £1,982,596, decreasing thereafter year by year, particularly between 1895–96 and 1896–97, till in 1897–98 the figures stood at only £1,377,826, or 30·5 per cent. below those of 1893–94. In 1893–94 the estimated mean population was 667,554 ; in 1897–98 713,384, or 6·9 per cent. more. The country's income from exported home products and manufactures thus fell from about £2 18*s.* 7*d.* per caput to about £1 18*s.* 7*d.*, a decline of about 34·1 per cent., or more than one third. In 1893–94 fruit realised £493,792 and minor products £160,170, together £653,962 ; in 1897–98 fruit gave £590,365 and minor products £226,674, together £817,039, a gain of £163,077. Sugar, rum, coffee, dyewoods, and pimento gave together in 1893–94 £1,328,634, *i.e.*, nearly as much as the total in 1897–98 of home products and manufactures. In that year these five old staples gave only £560,786, *i.e.*, less than fruit alone, a loss on the five of £767,848, or, deducting the gain £163,077 on fruit and minor products, a net loss of £604,771 on home products and manufactures. The loss on total exports during the period was £627,246, the difference as against home products only being chiefly due to a lesser shipment of coin and bullion in 1897 98.

It will be seen that the compensation from fruit and minor products is only between one-fourth and one-fifth of the loss on the older staples, and that the percentage comparison of the proportion of products one to another is highly fallacious, without reference also to the total values obtained on each and all exports. Thus minor products were 6·4 of the total in 1893–94 and 18·7 in 1897-98, but their value increased not by between 200 and 300 per cent. but by 41·5 per cent. It is evident also that owing to the influence of bounties and competition the income from the older staples is unlikely to be very greatly increased in the immediate future, and that such increase as takes place will probably be gradual, while fruit and minor products can hardly be expected to so increase in value as to fully compensate for stagnation in trade on the older staples, with an increasing population. The country will, therefore, probably not recover for some time to come the prosperity enjoyed during the period from, say, 1889 to 1893, when good prices were realized and foreign capital flowed into the country for railway extension. At the same time the steps now being taken to secure a fast steamship service with Europe and other local measures, such as the irrigation of lands in Vere, now receiving attention will, when carried into effect, undoubtedly afford an opportunity for a greatly increased export trade, add to the earning capacity of the Jamaica Railway, and tend to convert certain minor products into staples.

JAMAICA. 1897–8.

The Island exports were distributed to the following countries during the last 5 years in the proportions set below :—

—	1893–4.	1894–5.	1895–6.	1896–7.	1897–8.
United Kingdom	26·7	27·1	27·6	27·4	22·6
United States of America...	57·3	58·1	57·0	56·6	62·3
Dominion of Canada ...	1·7	1·5	1·6	1·2	1·3
Other countries	14·3	13·3	13·8	14·8	13·8

In 1891-92 the proportion for the United Kingdom was 32·7, United States 50·9, and Canada 3·5.

It is evident that the country is seeking the nearest market for its products. The States are likely to draw away more and more of our export trade from the British dominions as fruit becomes more and more the one great staple, unless this effect is neutralised by fast steam communication with England, where admission duty free, even with the disadvantage of greater freight dues and distance, would balance American protective duties. The decrease in exports to the United Kingdom is likely further to decrease with the decline in rum, coffee, and logwood. As to Canada, the proportion of trade with which has considerably declined, the Collector-General hopes her liberal tariff concessions, coupled with more frequent direct steam communication, will considerably improve this state of things in the immediate future.

Of foreign countries, France and Germany together took £113,713 worth of exports—France £82,211, chiefly in coffee and logwood ; Germany £31,502, chiefly in cocoa, pimento, rum, logwood, and logwood extract. Of £10,325 realized on a variety of articles, £8,810 was for cattle.

Turning now to imports, the following figures indicate a general decrease compared with 1896-97, especially under manufactured articles:—

—	1896-7.	1897-8.	Increase, 1897-8.	Decrease, 1897-8	Percentage Increase, 1897-8.	Percentage Decrease, 1897-8.
	£	£	£	£		
I. Live animals, food, drink, and narcotics.	759,419	724,359	—	35,060	—	— 4·6
II. Raw materials	49,778	65,427	15,649	—	+ 13·2	—
III. Manufactured articles	1,027,008	863,845	—	163,163	—	— 15·4
IV. Coin and bullion	28,407	15,749	—	12,658	—	— 44·6
Total	1,864,612	1,674,380	15,649	205,881	—	—
Net decrease	—	—	—	190,232	—	10·2

The previous year's imports showed a falling off of £391,025, and the rate of retrogression therefore was somewhat arrested during the year under review. In last year's report, it was remarked that there had been a remarkable increase in imports since 1890-91, the year of the Exhibition and of the beginning of the railway extension. This, and other important public undertakings, *e.g.*, new roads and bridges, led to the importation of materials for construction, and withdrew a large number of people from cultivation, who used a greater proportion of imported foods than when at their homesteads, and having ready money to dispose of, bought more manufactured articles. Public undertakings being at a standstill generally, except in and about Kingston, where street and sewerage works are being completed, imports tend to balance exports.

The decreases on imports with a total value of over £50,000, are as follows :—

—	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity Decrease.	Value Decrease.	Percentage Decrease Quantity.	Percentage Decrease Value.
	Gallons.	£	Gallons.	£		
Alcoholic liquors	230,100	52,871	72,589	14,207	— 24·0	— 21·2
	lbs.		lbs.			
Fish, dried or salted	13,284,564	116,240	954,417	5,681	— 6·7	— 4·7
Cottons, including hosiery	—	218,854	--	28,577	—	— 11·5
	Increases on such Imports in Value, Decrease in Quantity.					
	barrels.		Decrease barrels.	Value increase.		Increase.
Flour, wheat	147,615	162,378	20,304	7,053	— 12·1	+ 4·5
	Increase Quantity and Value.					
	tons.		Increase tons.	Increase value.	Increase.	
Coals	56,628	56,628	15,320	15,320	+ 37·1	+ 37·1

Importations for the Public Service, Army and Navy, are not included in this computation. Apparel and slops fell from £66,533 to £45,239 ; boots and shoes of leather from £56,091 to £45,190 ; lumber (pine) from £55,871 to £37,374.

Haberdashery and hardware also show large decreases. Increases in quantity and value besides those tabulated occurred in butter substitutes, meal, alewives. Condensed milk showed an increase in quantity with a cheapening in value. The few manufactured articles showing substantial increases were those in use for public undertakings, such as electric lighting, telegraphic and telephonic appliances, cement, &c. Textile manufactures show decreases generally, but the Collector-General points out that a considerable percentage of the decrease in value should be attributed to fall of price in manufacturing centres, especially in the case of cottons, the prices of which have probably decreased by one-half within the last 20 years, and by a considerable percentage within the last five years.

The following table shows how the import trade was distributed in each of the last five years, viz. :—

—	1893–4.	1894–5.	1895–6.	1896–7.	1897–8.
United Kingdom	55·1	50·4	48·1	49·9	47·2
United States of America ...	33·2	36·8	41·8	39·4	43·0
Canada	8·8	8·5	7·5	8·2	7·1
Other countries	2·9	4·3	2·6	2·5	2·7

As in exports, trade has lessened with the United Kingdom and increased with the United States. Last year the tendency was accentuated owing to a greater decline on importations of manufactured articles and drinks than on food supplies.

POLICE.

The allowed strength of the police during the year was 853 against 852 in 1896 -97, the actual strength 850 against 849. The number 850 is made up of 20 officers, 134 sub-officers, and 696 constables. One sub-officer, a sergeant-major, formerly in the Irish Constabulary, was promoted to be a sub-inspector.

To the 850 members of the regular force must be added 949 rural headmen and policemen, together 1,799 men engaged in police duties, against 1,786 in 1897. 72 constables were enlisted during the year, and 77 rural headmen and policemen appointed. 49 constables were discharged, 30 of them with pensions or

gratuities, 16 were dismissed, and one deserted, while 6 died. 83 of the rural police force were "removed," which is tantamount to dismissal in the regular force.

The Inspector-General reports very favourably on the conduct of officers, sub-officers, and men generally during the year.

The rural police are chiefly employed in assisting to detect and to bring to notice cases of praedial larceny, and illegal possession of rum, of children needing medical treatment for yaws, or persons requiring to be vaccinated.

The rural headmen receive £1 per month, and the rural policemen, of whom there are three to four per headman, receive one shilling and sixpence a day when called out on duty.

The principal duties, outside of patrolling and attendance at courts, performed by the constabulary during the past five years were as follows :—

———	1893–4.	1894–5.	1895–6.	1896–7.	1897–8.
No. of persons arrested on view and on information.	8,237	7,781	8,775	8,351	7,330
No. of persons apprehended on warrants.	—	—	—	1,780	1,629
No. of search warrants executed.	122	150	151	142	148
No. of persons summoned ...	19,212	19,249	20,279	19,537	17,785
„ „ subpœnaed ...	29,808	30,673	31,058	27,161	27,161
„ prisoners escorted ...	8,599	8,224	9,911	11,542	12,081
„ seizures under revenue laws.	399	437	649	309	854
No. of post-mortems ordered	594	603	610	641	703

Compared with last year this table shows considerable decreases in arrests and apprehensions taken together and in summonses, and increases, though not so numerically large, in cases of prisoners escorted and of seizures under revenue laws. The number under the latter head, compared with the preceding years, is remarkable. Offences of illegal possession of rum &c. had become very numerous, and their detection has been stimulated by the grant of a larger number than usual of rewards to the constabulary and rural policemen in cases detected by them which have resulted in conviction.

The more important statistics of crime during the past five years are as follows:—

	Apprehensions.					Convictions.				
	1893–4.	1894–5.	1895–6.	1896–7.	1897–8.	1893–4.	1894–5.	1895–6.	1896–7.	1897–8.
I. Offences against the person	7,232	7,302	7,040	6,653	6,500	3,375	3,218	3,309	3,140	3,008
II. Offences against property committed with violence.	251	326	429	394	350	162	184	245	264	229
III. Offences against property committed without violence.	4,071	4,079	5,004	5,700	5,488	2,154	1,914	2,586	3,021	2,995
IV. Malicious offences against property ...	179	182	137	169	162	43	53	57	43	39
V. Forgery and offences against the currency.	27	39	48	25	25	13	14	29	9	8
VI. Other offences	16,281	15,513	16,477	16,201	14,329	10,741	9,569	10,473	10,188	8,969
Total	28,041	27,441	29,135	29,142	26,854	16,488	14,952	16,699	16,665	15,248
I. Murder, including infanticide	13	10	12	16	13	5	3	5	1	7
Manslaughter	10	3	20	17	12	1	1	16	5	4
Cutting and wounding	684	694	847	835	861	439	269	302	449	476
Common assault	5,753	5,760	5,326	4,928	4,688	2,479	2,465	2,547	2,238	2,029
II. Burglary and housebreaking	227	277	417	375	339	156	166	239	253	224
III. Simple larceny	1,650	1,773	2,017	2,264	2,143	852	748	914	1,073	1,013
Praedial larceny	1,168	1,019	1,560	2,171	2,147	617	512	889	1,277	1,309
IV. Arson	32	291	18	29	29	5	6	1	3	5
V. Disorderly conduct	4,063	4,047	4,728	5,097	4,098	3,098	2,978	3,474	3,658	2,826
Obscene and abusive language	4,247	4,367	3,805	3,585	2,869	2,452	2,379	2,058	2,035	1,584
Trespass	825	940	941	973	883	436	449	467	482	471

JAMAICA. 1897–8.

In the report for last year under this head attention is called to a general increase in cases of crime for the five years ended 1896–97, which was counterbalanced, however, by a greater proportional increase in population. It is satisfactory to note from the preceding table that the year 1897–98 shows with the normal increase in population a decided decrease in crime. The apprehensions were lower than in any of the four preceding years, the convictions than in any of them except 1894–95. Compared with 1896–97 each of the six heads of crime shows a decrease both of apprehensions and convictions, except for forgery, apprehensions for which were the same. Turning to the eleven descriptions of crime given in the table, which comprise between them about two-thirds of the total number of crimes, there are decreases under all the apprehensions except for "Cutting and Wounding," and under most of the convictions. While cases under this head have increased, none of them were of a very serious nature, the weapons used being almost invariably sticks and stones. It appears that the tendency to use knives, referred to in last year's report as noticeable since the exodus to and repatriation from the Isthmus of Panama, is passing away. The relations between the people and the police were, the Inspector-General states, generally satisfactory, and it is pleasing to note that Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee was celebrated by thousands in each parish without disorder—indeed, in some of the parishes not an arrest was made during the celebrations.

PRISONS.

The following return shows the daily average number of prisoners in custody during each of the past five years, and the number on the last day of each year :—

Year.	Daily average number in custody.	Number on 31st March.
1893–94	1,008	943
1894–95	916	957
1895–96	1,008	1,094
1896–97	1,159	1,149
1897–98	1,172	1,049

Other important statistics of the Department for the years 1896-97 and 1897-98 are given below :—

	Year ended 31st March.	
	1897.	1898.
Commitments—		
To prison	4,748	4,998
To Lock-ups	930	987
Total	5,678	5,985
Reconvictions	1,976	2,076
Deaths—		
General Penitentiary ...	12	28
Other prisons	23	12
Total	35	40
Executions	1	3

FINANCIAL.

	Year ended 31st March.	
	1897.	1898.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Gross expenditure	21,285 11 2¾	20,884 11 5¾
Gross earnings in cash	4,796 15 4¾	5,939 19 4½
Net cost of maintaining prisons ...	16,488 15 10	14,944 12 1¼
Cost per prisoner	14 4 6¼	12 15 0¼
Estimated value of labour yielding no return.	8,550 9 4	5,577 0 4
Estimated value of bricklaying work and stone quarried (General Penitentiary).	3,789 2 2	3,507 11 11
Washing and repairing (General Penitentiary).	1,151 19 5	1,085 4 11

JAMAICA 1897–8

It will be seen from the first returns that there has been an increase of late years in the daily average number of prisoners in custody. There has also been an increase of committals, the number for the year under review being greater than that of 1896-97 by 307, 1895–96 by 871, 1894–95 by 1,756.

The large mortality both at the General Penitentiary and other prisons is attributable to an outbreak of typhoid fever at the Penitentiary, and of dysentery at the St. Catherine's District Prison.

The outbreak at the Penitentiary lasted for nearly three months. There were also an unusual number of cases of malarial fever and of influenza.

The epidemic of dysentery at the St. Catherine's District Prison was very protracted, and it became necessary, in order to stamp out the disease, to largely reduce the number of prisoners during part of the year, and to transfer inmates from time to time to other prisons until the complaint had disappeared.

At both institutions various sanitary improvements were effected with a view to prevent further similar outbreaks, and these have so far proved successful. The defects in the systems for disposing of sewerage have been removed, and Berkfield filters for filtering the drinking water have been introduced.

The Black River short term prison, which had been closed in 1895, was re-opened from August to December 1897 to provide accommodation for prisoners who could not be received at the St. Catherine's District Prison during the occurrence of dysentery there. The district prison at Lucea and the short term prison at Port Antonio were closed on the 28th February 1898. It had been found that discipline was not so well maintained in these smaller prisons, and that some ultimate saving in expenditure for supervision, &c. could be effected by transferring the prisoners to the St. Catherine's District Prison (the enlargement of which for the purpose is now approaching completion), except in the case of prisoners with very short sentences, who are sent to the lock-ups of the several parishes.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The total population of the Island on the 31st March last was estimated at 718,367, the net increase during the year being 11,973, or an increase at the rate of 16·8 per 1,000 persons living as against an increase at the rate of 16·6 per 1,000 in the previous year.

The mean population for the year 1897–98 is estimated at 713,384, and the rates for the year are calculated on that basis.

The average annual increase of population for the last six years has been about 11,500.

The number of marriages during the year was 2,661, equal to a rate of 3·7 per 1,000, as compared with 3,026 marriages or a rate of 4·3 per 1,000 in the previous year. This shows a serious falling off, to the extent of 365, in the number of marriages solemnized during the year under review. In fact the number of marriages has, year by year, decreased to a considerable extent since 1893–4.

Of the 5,322 persons married during the year, 2,510 or 47·16 per cent. signed the marriage registers by making their marks, as against 47·83 per cent. in the previous year. This slight decrease, however, is probably due to a falling off in the number of marriages amongst the poor and illiterate class, and is not a sign of better education.

The proportion of females who signed the registers during the year was greater than that of the males, showing that the former are still more skilled in writing than the latter.

The number of births registered during the year was 28,447, or a rate of 39·8 per 1,000, as compared with 27,064, or 38·5 per 1,000—an excess of 1,383 births over the previous year.

Of these births 17,729 were illegitimate, or a rate of 62·3 per cent., as against a rate of 61·1 in the previous year. This is the highest point that the number of illegitimate births has yet reached in this Island.

The deaths registered during the year numbered 16,474, or a rate of 23 per 1,000, as against 15,535 or 22·1 per 1,000 in the previous year.

Of the total number of deaths 5,047, or 30·6 per cent., were those of children under one year of age, while 7,389, or 44·8 per cent., were children under five years of age. The heaviest mortality as usual was amongst children of illegitimate birth.

Of the 16,474 deaths registered in the year 12,445, or 75·5 per cent., were registered without medical certificate as to the cause of death.

CAYMAN ISLANDS.

Grand Cayman.

The number of births at Grand Cayman during the year was 149, or 40 per 1,000 of population, of which 17 or 11·4 per cent. were illegitimate.

The number of deaths was 46, or 12·3 per 1,000 of population.

There were 23 marriages solemnized during the year, or a rate of 6·1 per 1,000.

JAMAICA. 1897–8.

Cayman Brac.

The number of births was 37, of which 4 were illegitimate, and the number of deaths was 6.

Seven marriages were solemnized during the year.

GENERAL.

The serious decline in the income of the community, due principally to low prices, which characterised the year 1896–97 continued during the year under review as the preceding heads of the report clearly indicate. The decline was far less marked, as for instance the value of exports almost realised the figure for 1896–97, but the resources of the people were already to some extent exhausted on account of the unremunerative prices of their products, and the acuteness of the depression was felt to a greater extent than in that year. At the time I write there is good reason to hope that the better prices now being realised for sugar and some other staples, which had shown a very retrograde tendency of late, will result before long in an appreciable if not a very considerable increase in the spending power of the community, and I am happy to be able to report that the depression in trade seems to have passed through its worst stages.

General depression in the West Indies led to the appointment of a Royal Commission of Enquiry. The Commissioners arrived in this Colony on the 28th March, 1897, and left on April 14th. Their report regarding Jamaica indicates that this Island has in their opinion greater natural resources than most of the West Indies, in variety of soil and climate, and greater proximity to the American market, and the Commissioners saw no ground for despondency as to the future of the Colony.

The administration has made strenuous efforts to cope with the problem presented by a deficit in public revenue due to the depression. A committee of enquiry was appointed towards the end of 1897, but further reductions than those recommended by them were found necessary, and a second committee was appointed shortly after the close of the financial year.

Notwithstanding the efforts made to lower general expenditure, which was £36,800 less than in 1896–97, a deficit of £86,913 was left at the close of the year. The present upward tendency of trade and the stringent public economies in progress will probably result in an improvement in the revenues for the succeeding year.

In the latter part of the calendar year 1897, an epidemic of yellow fever broke out and spread from Kingston to several other parishes. The disease was more virulent than is usual in this Colony, not only in the number of cases, but in the percentage of deaths. The coloured and black population who are usually almost immune to the disease were attacked as well as the whites, though the percentage of deaths among them, was far less than

among the latter. Stringent measures were adopted to check the progress of the disease, and by February, 1898, it had disappeared. In one respect the epidemic was beneficial, as it has led to the adoption by the municipalities of improved sanitary measures.

Various public improvements were initiated during the year in the Colony or in connection with it. The Direct West India Cable Company connected the Colony with Bermuda and Halifax.

Some new lines of steamers commenced to run; the Boston Fruit Company considerably increased its carrying capacity; the Street Car Company of Kingston and its neighbourhood, whose cars were drawn by mules, gave place to the West India Electric Company, which was granted a license during the year for an electric tramway service to be extended in new directions. The Company commenced their works during the year. The general sewerage works of Kingston were practically completed, and considerable progress made with the house connections. Few local industries were started, but the establishment of two dairy associations in the neighbourhood of Kingston, where the milk supply had hitherto been principally in the hands of hawkers and small vendors; the formation of new branches of the Jamaica Agricultural Society which now numbers among its members almost every influential and energetic agriculturist in the Colony, and numbers of smaller cultivators; the importation of better breeds of cattle, stock and poultry; and the increased interest taken by the peasantry in the lectures given by a Superintendent of the Botanical Department, are all indications that the pressure of harder times has led the community to realise more than was previously the case the necessity for a thorough knowledge and practice of improved methods of culture, stock raising, and disposal of products.

The local celebrations of the 60th Anniversary of Her Majesty's Accession were carried out with great enthusiasm throughout the Island, and the greatest order prevailed. The community generally has always been characterised by its loyalty to the Throne and Government.

A. W. L. HEMMING,

Governor of Jamaica.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

1899.

Date Due

FOR LIBRARY USE ONLY

University of Alberta Library
0 1620 0080 6859